

Sheikh Hussein Bridge is ready

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Engineering Corps on Sunday completed the construction of the Sheikh Hussein Bridge, which will act as a northern crossing point between Jordan and Israel. Work on the bridge started late last August in coordination with the concerned government branches. Work on the project was divided into three main sections. The first was to link the bridge with Al Arsani-North Shuneh-South Shuneh areas through a 4.5-kilometre long road. The second was to establish the crossing point and related facilities over an area of 4 dunums, including the tourism, customs, Public Security Department offices and services offices. The third section was to build the bridge on two 40-metre beams. Work on the bridge was finished 48 hours ahead of the specified time. The crossing is expected to be opened next month.

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Jordan rejects surrender, believes in sovereign rights — Prince Hassan

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said on Sunday Jordan rejects normalisation relations with Israel that would imply the Kingdom's surrender to or subjugation by the Jewish state and believes in the definition of sovereign rights, beginning with the definition of borders and moving on water rights.

The Crown Prince, addressing officers of the Public Security Department (PSD), on the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty initialled last week, said the delineation of Jordan-Israeli borders was based on hundreds of maps drawn according to the Kingdom's viewpoint, and defines the borders as beginning from the course of the River Jordan near Tiberias to the north to the Red Sea through the Jordan Valley.

The Crown Prince paid tribute to the efforts and performance of Jordanian negotiators, who, he said, succeeded in reaffirming Jordan's sovereignty within a framework of mutual respect and rejecting any attempt to dominate Jordan.

"Jordan is not Palestine

The Crown Prince noted that the delineation of Jordanian borders with the Palestinian territories Israel occupied in 1967 was not an issue for the Kingdom to deal with Israel.

"When we talk about the (Jordan) River's course north of the Dead Sea, we will be talking about clear legal responsibilities resulting from our continuous responsibility under international law towards the territories occupied in 1967," the Crown Prince said.

This Jordanian approach, he said, was aimed at preempting any future criticism that Jordan was responsible for relinquishing sovereign rights (to these territories) to anyone except the Palestinian people.

Jordan's northern borders have already been delineated without any external intervention and do not need monitoring by any international or foreign troops, he said.

Prince Hassan said Jordan had foiled the 1917 Balfour Declaration.

"Jordan is not Palestine

and Israeli politicians have committed themselves not to voice in public any Israeli expansionist desire as Israeli political schools used to threaten repeatedly," the Crown Prince said.

Prince Hassan said peace would not be sustainable unless the momentum of the objective and realistic search for achievements defining full sovereignty over the Arab Land is maintained.

The signing of the peace treaty with Israel will not detach Jordan from the Arab and Islamic body, he said. On the contrary it will prompt it to continue shouldering its cultural, social and economic responsibilities, as before, the Crown Prince said.

"Jordan believes that the Palestinians should shoulder their full responsibilities," he said.

However, this does not mean that Jordan should relinquish its religious responsibilities in Jerusalem towards the Arab and Islamic worlds.

"Reinquiring such responsibility under the present circumstances is not acceptable," the Crown Prince said.

He added that transferring responsibility for holy places

(Continued on page 7)

Rabin will not invite Arafat to signing

TEL AVIV (Agencies) —

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will not invite

Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat to Wednesday's peace treaty ceremony with Jordan, officials said.

Mr. Rabin made it clear on

Sunday when he met Moshe

Katzav, head of the

opposition Likud group, the

officials said.

The right-wing faction had

threatened to boycott the

signing spectacle on the

Israeli-Jordanian border

near the Red Sea if Mr.

Arafat was invited.

However, the Likud announced that a majority of

its 32 parliament members

would vote in favour of

ratification in the Knesset on

Tuesday and attend the ceremony.

The Israeli cabinet voted

unanimously Sunday for the

Likud leader Benjamin

Netanyahu told Israel Radio

his party had always backed

the idea of a treaty with Jordan.

"I'm going to support it,

the deficiencies are not significant enough to warrant not supporting it," he added.

Mr. Arafat has criticised

the peace deal because of a

Jerusalem clause recognising

Jordan's special role in administering Muslim holy sites in

Jerusalem.

Egyptian President Hosni

Mubarak, who has also picked

holes in the treaty, said no

Arab head of state would be

present for the signing.

On Saturday Mr. Arafat

ordered his foreign affairs

ceremony, a senior PLO official said.

At the weekly cabinet

meeting of his self-rule government in the Gaza Strip, Mr. Arafat ordered Farouk Kaddoumi, the PLO's foreign affairs chief, to turn down an invitation to the signing ceremony, the Palestinian official said on condition of anonymity. Mr. Arafat himself was not invited to the ceremony.

The Arabic-language daily

stressed that "the peace of

the world is not

the peace of the

Middle East."

Mr. Arafat's visit marks a

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Iraq's school system crumbles under sanctions

BAGHDAD (AFP) — In a darkened classroom in Saddam City, Baghdad's poorest quarter, most of the 38 pupils were squatting on the floor trying to learn their lessons, while a lucky few perched at the three available desks.

Iraq once prided itself of having the finest education system in the Middle East funded in the 1970s by the income from its huge oil reserves.

But today's schools serve only as a mocking reminder of that boast, as the crippling U.N. sanctions imposed when Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990 rear their toll in the classroom.

There is a lack of textbooks and basic materials, as the government can only provide well-thumbed and torn books and a handful of notebooks. It has no funds to replace broken desks.

There is a lack of teachers as many have quit the job, because of the low salaries. But most of all there is a lack of pupils.

An increasing number of children are playing truant. Ten per cent of pupils were absent this year, five per cent the year before.

Most have been pulled out of school by their parents who put them to work to supplement the family's meagre income, ignoring the fact that primary education is compulsory under the law.

Others miss lessons because of illness, often caused by malnutrition.

"Who ate this morning?" deputy school director Najiya Mohammad asked the pupils, who came from Saddam City, named after the Iraqi president.

Only a few raised their hands, to say they had eaten breakfast. Some had had cheese, but most had eaten only bread and tea.

"They are underfed, they cannot concentrate," she said.

'Did Oval Office meeting end Gulf war too soon?'

NEW YORK (AP) — Iraq's new threats against Kuwait may have been the result of a premature end to the Gulf war, advised by President Bush's top generals, the New York Times reported Sunday.

The decision to end the war was based on political concerns rather than military objectives and ensured the survival of much of Iraq's elite Republican Guard, who retreated rather than fight, the Times said.

Those forces again menaced Kuwait earlier this month and U.S. troops were ordered back to the region to prevent a possible second invasion.

The newspaper said that at a pivotal meeting on Feb. 27, 1991, General Colin Powell, then chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told Mr. Bush that the bombardment of the retreating Iraqi forces would tarnish the image of the U.S. military.

Gen. Powell said that he and Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, the allied commander, believed the conflict was "in the home stretch," and that it could be wrapped up within the next 24 hours.

The Times, citing previously undisclosed notes taken by a participant in the Oval Office meeting, said that Mr. Bush asked: "Why do I not feel elated?" at the news that

said, citing the case of a 10-year-old boy who had had to be sent home a few days previously after fainting from hunger.

"Malnutrition is beginning to be felt in schools especially in the increasing failure rate which rose last year to 25 per cent, from 15 per cent in the previous years," Education Minister Hukmat Bazzaz told AFP.

"Moreover, the number of children leaving school is on the rise, mainly in secondary schools," he added.

According to his figures, seven per cent of Iraq's five million school-age children have quit this year.

He is equally concerned at the growing number of teachers who are abandoning their posts, mainly because of low wages averaging around 3,000 dinars a month or less than \$6.

"Teachers cannot live on their salaries. Those who don't resign often fail to show up for several days to take on a more lucrative job, or work after class which inevitably affects the teaching standard," Mr. Bazzaz said.

In rural areas, some of the teachers had gone over to farming, he added.

"The law forbids of teachers from getting another job, but in fact, we are encouraging them to do so," he said.

Another reason for teacher absenteeism is the high cost of travelling to work.

The education ministry has launched a campaign to try to persuade parents to club together to pay their transport.

He painted a bleak picture of the future.

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Discussions with the EU

INFORMATION Minister Jawad Anani Sunday reviews with ambassadors of the European Union (EU) accredited to Jordan developments in the peace process on the Jordanian-Israeli track and the resultant peace treaty which was initialled in Amman last week.

Dr. Anani discussed with the ambassadors issues of common interest and role of the EU in supporting development and investment projects in the post-peace era.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Anani said the ambassadors voiced their countries' full support for the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty and their appreciation of Jordan's important role in establishing peace in the region.

Dr. Anani pointed out that the EU countries have allo-



cated 500 million European Currency Units (ECU's) ab-

out \$580 million of the region develop their economies. Jor-

NEWS IN BRIEF

3 killed in road accident in north

AMMAN (Petra) — Three people were killed and 22 injured on Sunday in an accident involving a passenger mini-bus and a pick-up car driving at the Amman-Jordan road, the Civil Defence Department said. The casualties were rushed to Jerash hospital and some of them were discharged after receiving treatment. Most of the injured were listed in moderate condition, the said.

Rocket attacks kill 61 people

KABUL (AP) — Rocket slammed into the centre of ruined Afghan capital Sunday, killing six people and bringing the death toll in three days of fierce factional fighting hospital officials said. But officials said the exact death toll is impossible to determine because people seldom bring their dead to a hospital, preferring to bury them immediately in keeping with strict Islamic tradition. They said at least 200 more people have been wounded since Friday. The capital, battered by incessant rocketing from warring Islamic leaders, took a particularly bad beating on Friday, when witnesses said hundreds of rockets pummeled the city. "Where are our leaders? They are too afraid of the people to come to the city that they have destroyed," said Mohammad Anwar, a witness to Sunday's bloodshed. Afghanistan's nine main Islamic groups have been waging a bitter battle for power since overthrowing the old communistist regime in April 1992.

German TV team arrested in Turkey

BONN (AFP) — Turkish security forces arrested a reporting team from Germany's ARD television channel, accusing them of anti-Turkish propaganda, the ARD correspondent in Turkey said Sunday. Dieter Sinnhuber, questioned by telephone from Bonn, said he had been assigned to his hotel in Hopa northeastern Turkey near the border with Georgia along with a German woman aide and two Turkish cameramen. Police arrested the team early on Saturday and seized films and notebooks from their hotel rooms. Mr. Sinnhuber said the Germans also had their passports confiscated. Mr. Sinnhuber said the team had been accused of recording "anti-Turkish interviews" although he said the team had made only one interview of a non-political character. A German foreign ministry spokesman said officials in Bonn and at the Ankara embassy were working to resolve the dispute.

Relief plane under fire from Somali gunmen

MOGADISHU (R) — A small aircraft sponsored by the European Union (EU) to serve the international aid operation in Somalia was fired on by unidentified gunmen when taking off from Afmadow in southern Somalia on Saturday, EU officials in the capital Mogadishu said. The plane was not damaged, but the officials said the incident was serious and could affect further aid flights to the area. They said it was not clear whether gunfire was deliberately directed at the plane, or whether it had been caught in crossfire from fighting between rival Somali groups.

Malaysian soldier killed in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU (R) — A Malaysian U.N. soldier was killed when the armoured personnel carrier he was in overturned in Mogadishu on Sunday, a U.N. spokesman said. Other soldiers in it were injured. No other vehicle was involved. On Saturday, a Pakistani jeep overturned in the same area, but its occupants escaped with minor injuries.

Iranian plane may have exploded

TEHRAN (R) — An Iranian plane which crashed earlier this month killing all 66 people on board may have exploded in mid-air, the head of Iran's civil aviation was on Sunday quoted as saying. "Preliminary studies indicate that the plane possibly was destroyed in the air," Ali Shahenagh was quoted as saying by Abrar newspaper. It was not clear whether the official suspected sabotage or an accident. He said the plane had been checked in Isfahan and only after "the final okay of the pilot and coordination with Tehran" it was allowed to take off on its journey to Tehran. The Fokker F-28 of the state-owned Asiana airline crashed south of Tehran on 12 killing all 59 passengers and seven crew.

Yemen launches Mukalla cement project

ADEN (R) — President Ali Abdullah Saleh of Yemen on Saturday laid the foundation stone for a \$150 million cement plant in Mukalla, Hadramawt, the first by the private sector. Yemen Television said. The television said the plant, with an initial annual capacity of 500,000 tonnes to be increased to one million tonnes, would be completed in three years. The project would be carried out by the Hadramawt Cement Industry, a private company, the television said. Mr. Saleh laid the foundation stone during his first visit to the southeastern province of Hadramawt, the stronghold of his former arch foe, Ali Salem Al Beidh, who made an abortive attempt to create an independent state in the south earlier this year. Mr. Saleh emerged victor of the two-month civil war which ended on July 7. Mr. Beidh fled Mukalla and is believed to be in Oman. Yemen has three other cement plants, all public sector owned, with a combined capacity of 1.3 million tonnes.

Suspects go to trial for attack on Korean tourists

CAIRO (AFP) — Eight suspected Islamic militants are to go on trial on Nov. 1 for a bomb attack on South Korean tourists last year, a semi-official newspaper said Saturday. Three tourists were slightly injured when assailants threw a petro bomb at their bus outside a hotel on a road leading to the Giza Pyramids on Feb. 4, 1993. The defendants are accused of plotting to wreck the tourism industry and illegal possession of fire-arms, ammunition and explosives, according to Al Ahram Al Misal. The charges are punishable by death or life imprisonment.

Momentous Mideast week in store

By Julie Bradford

Agence France Presse

NICOSIA — A momentous week is in store for the Middle East with the signing of a peace treaty between Israel and Jordan on Wednesday and a tour by U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Jordan will become only the second Arab country after Egypt to make peace with Israel, when King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin take part in a glittering signing ceremony in Amman on Wednesday.

The Saudis were so unhappy with the outcome of the war that they proposed a secret plan to arm Iraqi Shi'ite insurgents, and one top U.S. general even developed a plan for American tanks to roll to Baghdad, the newspaper said.

Also present at the ceremony will be Mr. Clinton, who will then fly to Damascus for the first visit to Syria by a U.S. president since Richard Nixon travelled there in 1974.

Mr. Clinton is hoping to capitalise on momentum from the Israeli-Jordanian deal to find a breakthrough in the toughest track of the peace process, between Israel and Syria.

"Until that is done we will never have comprehensive peace in the Middle East," he warned.

He is due to arrive in Cairo on Wednesday, before visiting Jordan, Israel, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia as well as Syria.

It will be the president's first tour of the Middle East and reflects the acceleration of the peace process.

But it also comes after a string of bloody attacks by militants seeking to derail Arab-Israeli peace efforts.

On Wednesday a suicide

bomber blew up a packed bus in a busy shopping street in Tel Aviv, killing 21 people as well as himself.

The attack was claimed by the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), a Palestinian hardline group opposed to the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy accord signed in September 1993.

Hamas also claimed a gun attack in a West Jerusalem street which left two people dead, as well as the kidnapping of an Israeli soldier which ended a bloodbath and death of the hostage on Oct. 14.

Mr. Rabin responded to the bus bombing by indefinitely closing the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Clinton said the attacks made U.S. efforts to push forward the peace process all the more urgent.

"I think it's important... particularly now... with the violent reaction to the efforts at peace, that the United States stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our friends and allies who are taking such terrific risks to make peace," he said.

Israel and the PLO are to

press ahead with negotiations

to organise Palestinian

elections to an autonomy

council next week despite the Tel Aviv blast.

PLO Chairman Yasser

Arafat, who is to meet Mr.

Clinton in Cairo, has urged

the president to lean on Israel

to speed up implementation

of the Palestinian autonomy

agreement signed in

September 1993.

Mr. Clinton, who meets

Syrian President Hafez Al

Assad on Thursday, said he

believed his visit "will further

the peace deal with Jordan

could be used as a model for negoti-

ations with its own country."

Mr. Clinton is hoping to

capitalise on momentum from

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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday receives a visiting Turkish business delegation headed by Serif Egeli and accompanied by Jordanian Businessmen's Association President Hamdi Tabbaa (Petra photo)

Crown Prince talks of expected improvement in regional relations

Prince Hassan receives visiting Turkish team

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan reviewed with a visiting Turkish delegation ideas and plans for the development of the Middle East region in the new era of peace and improvement of relations among different countries of the region.

Jordan aims basically to ensure cooperation among these countries for the sake of enhancing the cause of peace which will eventually benefit the people of the region, improve their living conditions and secure prosperity for all, said Prince Hassan at the meeting.

The delegation, led by Serif Egeli, co-chairman of the Turkish-Jordanian Business Council, has been conducting talks with Jordanian officials and businessmen on means of promoting trade and economic cooperation between Jordan and Turkey.

Mr. Egeli, who leads a 70-member delegation from the Turkish business community, earlier Sunday met Minister of Supply Adel Qudah and Chairman of the Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA) Hamdi Tabbaa.

Discussion at the meetings centred on prospects of Jordan importing Turkish chickpeas and lentils through the

Ministry of Supply.

They also discussed the prospect of Jordan benefiting from Turkey's expertise in the processing of olive oil.

According to Minister of Agriculture Mansour Ben Tarif Sunday, Jordan is this year expected to produce between 14,000 and 15,000 tonnes of olive oil. The minister said that this amount plus the remaining amounts of olive oil in store at the Ministry of Supply's warehouses would be sufficient for the Jordanian market's needs until the 1995 season.

According to Mr. Qudah Jordan has already established one factory for canning olive oil.

The Turkish delegation also met Sunday with Mohammad Murad, president of the Jordanian Contractors Association (JCA), and reviewed the existing cooperation between the two countries in the contracting business.

The coming peace is expected to open new scopes of cooperation among Middle East contractors, said Mr. Murad.

For his part Mr. Egeli said that Turkey welcomes the opportunity for contractors from both countries to embark in joint-ventures in infrastructure and housing projects.

"I would like to say we look forward to bring the Eastern Mediterranean region, which politically we share with Turkey, being partners in the context of the peace treaty, into a period full of effective participation not only in the world economy, but also in building a zone of security and stability for the Middle East."

HONOURING SPECIAL SERVICE: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday presents Director of the British Institute of Archaeology and History in Amman William Lancaster with Al Istiklal Medal of the Third Order which was conferred upon Dr. Lancaster by His Majesty King Hussein in appreciation of his 24 years of service in archaeology. Mr. Lancaster has written scores of articles on Jordan in international magazines and periodicals (Petra photo)



Professional association chiefs condemn peace agreements

AMMAN — The Council of Presidents of Jordanian Professional Associations Sunday issued a statement condemning Arab-Israeli agreements which lead to normalization of relations and urged Parliament and the public to "reject the agreements with the Jewish state."

It is regrettable to see Arab regimes begging for a humiliating peace with Israel by all means and under different names and giving one concession after another to the Jewish state in exchange for false promises, said the statement, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times.

Criticising the series of meetings and negotiations that were conducted since the convening of the Arab-Israeli

peace conference in Madrid, the statement said that "nothing is being achieved towards the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, and the Jordanian-Israeli agreement, the Oslo accord and the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty were all poison harming the Arab nation."

The statement expressed regret that Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria are following suit and "making approaches towards Israel and begging for peace with the Jewish state under continued colonialist American pressure."

The nation that accepts humiliation will have its dignity impaired and eventually, resulting in the disintegration of the nation's culture and religious faith,"

the statement said.

"We condemn agreements concluded so far or to be concluded with Israel, and consider any member of the professional unions in Jordan with normalization relations with the enemy anywhere and under any circumstances as expelled from the professional associations," said the statement.

It appealed to the Lower House of Parliament to stand firmly united in rejecting agreements with Israel.

"Come what may," and called on all public sectors to voice their rejection of any form of normalization with the Jewish state, stressing that the solution lies in the hands of the masses and not with the Arab regimes which rule over them.

Anti-Israeli motive in attack on tourist

AMMAN (R) — A Jordanian who stabbed an American tourist four days before a peace treaty with Israel is concluded was apparently angered because the man said he was from Israel, Jordanian officials said on Sunday.

"He said he did not want to see a Jewish tourist in Jordan and that is why he committed his act," said an official. The official said security for tourists was being stepped up. Dave Friedman, 24, an

American Jew living in Israel was stabbed in the back on Saturday by Raed Ismail, 27.

Mr. Friedman, riding on a bus with his girlfriend, suffered only scratches from the three blows and did not need hospitalisation.

Mr. Friedman, who had identified himself as Israeli, returned to Israel on Sunday. The lone assailant, who told interrogators he acted on the spur of the moment, was caught immediately after the

Queen Noor calls for implementation of clear sighted vision for Petra region

Petra National Trust management plan workshop begins

By Jennifer Hamarneh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday inaugurated a workshop in Petra designed to review a management plan for the Petra National Park and then takes steps to implement the plan.

As patron and honorary chairperson of the Petra National Trust (PNT), Queen Noor had, in 1990, requested assistance from United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Director General Frederico Mayor in preparing the management plan and outlining the major problems threatening the integrity of this site.

The Nabataean city of Petra was declared a World Heritage Site in 1985, and as such is listed among approximately 300 sites worldwide.

The Queen has always stressed the necessity for environmentally responsible tourism and for collaboration to protect and preserve sites of antiquity and natural beauty.

In her address to the gathering of about 100 experts and other individuals representing national and international organisations, the Queen said there has been an increased focus on Jordan and its antiquities in the international press as a result of the progress accomplished in the peace process and the anticipated dramatic rise in tourism to the Kingdom.

She added that travellers have been advised to visit Jordan and see its antiquities, especially Petra, before they are ruined.

These perceptions, she said, are perhaps related to a lack of success to date to formulate a clear sighted vision for the Petra region, adding that this is precisely the purpose of this workshop.

PNT President, His Royal Highness Prince Ra'd Ben Zaid, spoke to the attendees of the workshop in im-

1992. Since then, the team was able to evaluate the principal threats to the area from a combination of cultural, socio-economic and environmental factors, according to a PNT spokesperson.

The main problems, according to UNESCO, are: management deficiency; hotel development (considered to have the most serious impact on the Petra National Park as some of these hotel projects have been carried out without an environmental impact assessment (EIA) and pose an excessive negative visual impact on the site and are located in the catchment area, above the line of the natural springs, impacting on the water resources of the residents of the area between Wadi Musa and Tayybeh); erosion; uncontrolled development of villages; too high concentration of visitors; lack of control of visitors circulation; spread of commercial activities; antiquities at risk; quality of restoration; sanitary facilities; information in general; and ticketing policies.

The workshop aims to look at the management plan submitted by UNESCO and presented by Said Zulficar, director of the Cultural Heritage Division, UNESCO headquarters, and two other specialists who assisted in its preparation.

Queen Noor said in her speech from the Throne, the King announced that in view of the tourist demand for Petra, a higher committee for Permanent Tourism. Development has been set up and a regional planning council was also set up for the area, with a membership that includes all the parties concerned, including public and private sectors.

Prince Ra'd, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Mohammad Adwan also addressed the gathering saying that the ministry has begun implementing carefully studied rules and regulations specifically designed to achieve the intricate objective of ensur-



Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday arrives in Petra to inaugurate the Petra National Trust Management Plan (Photo by George Crystal)

ing that the expected boom in tourism development is undertaken in harmony with each particular site's distinctive character.

Dr. Zulficar urged the taking of a definite decision between long-term cultural identity and short-term economic gains. He said that the status of Petra as a World Heritage Site brings with it responsibilities and implications for Jordanians to conserve and restore the site, of which they are the custodians on behalf of the international community.

Dr. Zulficar said, "We do know in itself from our fathers without we borrow for our children."

Petra National Trust is a board of trustees dedicated to the preservation of Petra by protecting the archaeological remains and their environment, enforcing strict regulations, restoring the monuments in their natural setting, enhancing the Petra National Park in general and the Petra sanctuaries more specifically, through a friendly, environmental, and cultural tourism.

The management plan was prepared by UNESCO in cooperation with Petra National Trust and the Ministry of Tourism.

The workshop continues today in Petra, then will move to Amman on Tuesday in Amman at the PNT offices.

Visiting Palestinian social scientists call for strong Jordanian-Palestinian ties

By Ramadan Rawashdeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Five visiting Palestinian university professors have called for strong Jordanian-Palestinian relations, stressing that mutual cooperation was vital to ensuring the prosperity of both peoples.

Speaking at a seminar Sunday organised by the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan, Khalil Al Shaqqa said the Palestinians can not be divorced from Jordan, which, he added, serves as the Palestinian people's respite.

Dr. Shaqqa, who heads the Nablus-based Palestine Research and Studies Centre, said that the best action to take is to bring about a Jordanian-Palestinian reconciliation that would end competition.

He said the Palestinians on

the other hand, feel they are weak, with a feeble entity, but they seek to reassess their national identity.

With regard to the Oslo accord between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel, Dr. Shaqqa said the Palestinians saw in it a means of fulfilling their desire to attain independence.

The Palestinians feel that the October 1991 Madrid conference gave Jordan an important and basic role in the future entity of the

The Oslo accord, he said, was a way for the Palestinians to shake off the Jordanian role.

Dr. Shaqqa said PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat now faces a genuine crisis in the Gaza Strip and Jericho in terms of security where he failed to contain the Islamic



Bi-Zit University Professor Ali Jirawi (3rd from left) Sunday addresses a seminar on Jordanian-Palestinian relations at the University of Jordan. Also on the podium (right to Yousef Al 'Aitan)

Resistance Movement, Hamas, and proved important in building an infrastructure for a Palestinian state.

Mr. Arafat's failure has resulted in Hamas winning over the street and has caused the Palestinians to suspect the Palestinian leadership's ability to extend its rule to the West Bank, added Dr. Shaqqa.

His colleague, Iyad Barhouqi, said that the Palestine

National Authority (PNA), which emerged as an outcome of the Oslo accord, failed to reflect the real authority of the Palestinian leadership to such a degree that the Palestinian people in the self-rule areas have become indifferent to whom rules over them in Israel, Jordan or others.

He said that under the PNA several security services exist, each one oriented towards or working against the other.

Dr. Barhouqi added that a democratic and prosperous Jordan could make Jordan the model with which they would like to unite. But, he said, if Jordan Television (JTV) is one of the mechanisms to achieve such a unity, he assured the audience that at the moment JTV has no credibility on the West Bank.

WHAT'S GOING ON

SPANISH CULTURAL WEEK

★ "Danza Invisible" rock concert at the Palace of Culture, King Hussein Sports City at 5:00 p.m. (all proceeds to go to benefit Noor Al Hussein Foundation).

FILM

★ French film entitled "Le Fleuve" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL

★ Film in Italian (with subtitles in English) entitled "Dove Siete? Io Sono Qui!" (Where Are You? Here I Am) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 5:00 p.m.

★ Film in Italian (with subtitles in English) entitled "Condominio" (Condominium) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m. (all

proceeds to go to the benefit of the Occupational Therapy College).

VOCAL RECITAL

★ A vocal recital of folk, spiritual and American Theatre songs at the Marriott Hotel at 8:00 p.m.

LECTURE

★ Lecture in Arabic entitled "The Future of Democracy in the Arab World" by Mr. Iyad Qatani at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of textiles artistry and patchwork by Tumilki Haddadin at the Gallery lo-

cated at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel.

★ Two exhibitions: Paintings by Italian painter Armando Appaja, and a special exhibition of "Polluted City — the Monuments" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

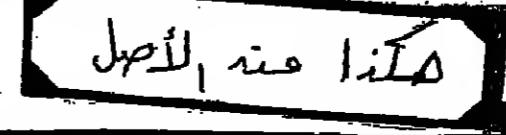
★ Exhibition of paintings of Iraqi artist Jaber Mejjel at Alia Art Gallery.

★ Art exhibition by Ahmad Subaih at Baladna Art Gallery.

★ Exhibition of art by Sanaa' Hindi entitled "Leaves" at Orfali Art Gallery.

★ Exhibition entitled "Spanish Modern Engraving and Multiplied Sculpture" at the Jordan National Gallery, Jabal Luweibdeh (Tel. 630128).

★ The First Computer Art Exhibition in the Arab World at Alia Art Gallery.



Rift in French ruling coalition threatens presidential hopes

PARIS (AFP) — Cracks in France's ruling conservative coalition have begun to widen alarmingly as the race for the French presidency shifts into gear, pitting the right's leading lights embarrassingly against each other.

Worse still for the conservatives, the in-fighting threatens to let the left — in the form of Socialist outgoing European Commission President Jacques Delors — into the presidential Elysee Palace almost by default.

Six months before ballots in which the right hopes to seize back the top job in French politics after 14 years of Socialist tenure, the two main rightwing candidates have rarely seemed further apart.

Only last year Prime Minister Edouard Balladur and Rally for the Republic (RPR) leader Jacques Chirac were the heroes of the right's historic landslide in legislative elections.

Their fortunes were crowned when opinion polls indicated the right was in a strong position to add the

presidency to the premiership, ending the frustrations of "cohabitation" with Socialist President Francois Mitterrand.

But amid increasingly open campaigning by their supporters for the April and May presidential ballots, Mr. Balladur and Mr. Chirac have recently been barely able to conceal their political ambitions.

Divisions have become obvious among lawmakers, who have formed clear camps within the ruling coalition, comprising the RPR and the Union for French Democracy (UDF), the junior partner.

The bickering came to a head last week in a public spat between Interior Minister Charles Pasqua and Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, in which Mr. Juppe was accused for backing Mr. Chirac.

Although neither Mr. Balladur nor Mr. Chirac has officially declared his presidential candidacy, at a date convenient to you," before any "tete-a-tete" meeting with the prime minister.

Mr. Giscard D'Estaing, who is in de facto alliance with Mr. Chirac to counter efforts by UDF members to

oust him, said he was postponing a reply to Mr. Balladur's letter, in what was seen as another snub.

The squabbles have done no good to the right's fortunes in opinion polls, which indicate that French people are increasingly doubtful that a rightwing candidate will win the presidential ballots.

One last week said only 30 per cent of French people now consider a rightwing victory to be certain, compared with 46 per cent a year ago. Today 59 per cent consider the race open, nearly double the figure of 35 per cent a year ago.

The drop comes amid a steady increase in support for Mr. Delors, who stands down as European Commission president at the end of the year and who is thought likely to stand for the French presidency.

Recent opinion polls have shown that Mr. Delors was either running neck-and-neck with Mr. Balladur or had on his heels if the second round of the presidential elections were to be held now.

Greece holds runoff local elections

ATHENS (AFP) — Greeks

recent coup attempt, which came after Azerbaijan's signing on Sept. 20 of a contract with a consortium of eight foreign companies to exploit oilfields in the Caspian Sea.

The Russian Foreign Ministry denounced the \$8-billion contract, even though one of the companies involved was the Russian firm Lukoil.

Observers said the unrest had been stirred up by Russia to try to wreck a contract undermining Moscow's traditional influence in the region.

The immediate cause of the crisis was the assassination on Sept. 29 of the deputy speaker of parliament and the head of Mr. Aliyev's personal intelligence apparatus and the jailbreak by Aliyev opponents.

Deputy Interior Minister Rovshan Dzhavadov led some 200 troops backed by at least five tanks and other armoured vehicles in an up-

rising in Baku.

Mr. Aliyev, who cut short a trip to the United Nations in New York to deal with the crisis, said Mr. Guseinov was in league with former President Ayaz Mutalibov, in exile in Moscow, to plot his overthrow.

Mr. Mutalibov is regarded by diplomatic and Azeri political observers as the man Russia would most like to see in power.

Mr. Guseinov, the former director of a textile factory, led troops from his stronghold in the country's second city, Gyandza, to take power in Baku in a bloodless coup in 1993.

Mr. Aliyev came to power on the back of the coup, and while he ostensibly gave Mr. Guseinov the post of prime minister with responsibility for the security ministries, Mr. Guseinov was swiftly sidelined by Mr. Aliyev.

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rising in Baku.

Following the battle, fleet

Admiral Chester Nimitz

made Mr. Gay his spokesman in spreading his firsthand account of the Midway victory back in the United States.

He appeared on the cover of Life magazine's Aug. 13, 1942, issue and on radio shows including Nelson Eddy and Don McNeil's Breakfast Club.

After World War II, Mr.

Gay was discharged as a

lieutenant and worked as a

TWA pilot for 30 years,

flying worldwide routes from

1947 until he retired at the

age of 60 in 1977.

He also made about one

speech a month to civic

groups around the country,

telling his Midway exper-

iences and calling for greater

U.S. military preparedness.

He accepted only his ex-

penses as payment.

His daughter, Sandra

Heimbach, told Reuters that

Mr. Gay will be cremated

and that, at his own request,

his ashes will be spread over

the Midway battle site so he

can rest in peace with "his

friends."

"My father always main-

tained that he was not a hero,

but that the men who died at

Midway were the heroes."

Sole survivor of Midway attack dead at 77

ATLANTA (R) — An American World War II aviator who became a national hero as the only member of his squadron to survive a famous attack on Japanese warships during the Battle of Midway has died at age 77.

George Gay Jr. died Friday of a heart attack in an Atlanta hospital, his family members said.

Mr. Gay, of Marietta, Georgia, earned his place in history by bobbing up and down in the ocean for 30 hours as the battle — which became the turning point of the war in the Pacific — raged around him.

At the time, Mr. Gay was a 25-year-old naval pilot with Torpedo Squadron 8, which joined other planes in attacking a Japanese aircraft carrier task force near Midway Island on June 4, 1942.

Of the squadron's 50 men, Gay was the only one to

survive the assault.

Wounded, and wearing a lifejacket, he watched American dive bombers descend from the skies to attack the Japanese.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution newspaper quoted him as saying he found himself "cheering and hollering with every hit" as he floated in the ocean.

Despite the fate of Gay's

squadron, Japan's Imperial Navy lost three carriers in the battle and never fully recovered.

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"Their relationship... was

later to be portrayed merely as a tawdry affair," he wrote.

"For the prince, however, it

was a vital source of strength

to a man who had been

denied beyond words by his

father for which he invariably blamed himself."

The biography also said

Prince Charles intends to create a new royal House of Mountbatten-Windsor after he is crowned king ending the exclusive use of the Windsor name, established in 1917 by King George V, Queen Elizabeth II's grandfather.

The Sunday Times, which said Prince Charles had told friends he now regretted his decision to help Mr. Dimbleby with the biography, apparently concerned that views expressed by other people in the book were mistaken for his own — especially those concerning his relationship with his parents and Princess Diana.

The Sunday Telegraph said Prince Charles had checked Mr. Dimbleby's manuscript for factual accuracy, said the move was intended as a tribute to Lord Mountbatten, the prince's mentor who was killed by an IRA bomb 15 years ago.

Other Sunday newspapers also published various royal "scoops," mostly unsourced,

ranging from the Mail On Sunday's report claiming Prince Charles believed his parents did not trust him to be king to the News Of The World's five pages of photos of the couple frolicking on a Caribbean beach in 1982.

It branded him "the liar king," saying the photos gave the lie to his revelation in last Sunday's excerpts of the biography that he never loved Princess Diana and was forced into marrying her by his domineering father, Prince Philip.

Prince Charles Princess Diana had two sons but the marriage founded and they formally separated in December 1992.

But the couple took the unusual step last week of denying, through their lawyers, that they were planning to divorce. The denial was prompted by a French magazine report that they had agreed a \$24.5 million divorce settlement.

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Clinton spotlights crackdown on guns in schools

BELMONT, California (R) — With public concern over rising crime dominating congressional elections, President Bill Clinton kicked off a campaign swing Saturday by calling attention to a government crackdown on gun-toting school children.

The new law was sponsored by Senator Diane Feinstein, a California Democrat fighting to retain her Senate seat against a strong challenge from Republican Michael Huffington.

Ms. Feinstein said 135,000 guns are brought into America's schools every day. She added that since Los Angeles adopted a zero tolerance policy in 1993, it has seen a 27 per cent decrease in gun possession by student and a 34 per cent decrease in gun-related violence.

Mr. Clinton was due to speak at a fundraising dinner for Kathleen Brown, Democratic candidate for California governor. He is also scheduled to visit Washington state and Ohio during his three-day campaign swing.

Ms. Brown trails Republican governor Pete Wilson in pre-election opinion polls, and Republican sources said Mr. Wilson was so confident of victory that he was beginning to share his campaign funds with other Republican candidates.

"We cannot operate in a country where children are afraid and cannot feel much less think," Mr. Clinton said, in his remarks at the high school.

Directly addressing young people in the audience, Mr. Clinton said his administration had "done some tough things to try to give you a bright future, and we're not ashamed of them."

"If we can think of other things to do, we will do them as well. But in the end, what you do inside is even more important. You must say no to guns, no to gangs, no to drugs, yes to education, yes to hope, yes to your own future."

While Mr. Clinton did not have to sign the memorandum to put the ban on guns in schools into effect, the action served to dramatize his efforts to reduce crime, which most voters regard as America's number one problem.

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Republicans could take control of the Senate by making a net gain of seven more seats among the 35 seats at stake in the voting. Democrats now have a 56-44 majority.

The opposition party could also end four decades of Democratic dominance in the House by gaining 40 seats. The current lineup is 256 Democrats, 178 Republicans and one independent.

Before leaving Washington, Mr. Clinton said in his weekly radio speech that Republicans were trying to return America to their failed policies of the past with promises to cut taxes and government spending.

"They'd give a \$200 billion tax cut to the wealthiest Americans. They would explode the deficit. That would mean cutting many of the education reforms we've worked so hard to pass, along with Medicare (health care for the elderly) and other programs," he said.

A measure seeking to end social benefits for illegal aliens and deny their U.S.-born children citizenship is drawing solid support in California, as many voters blame immigrants for the state's economic woes.

Governor Pete Wilson, a Republican facing a tough challenge in the race to the Nov. 8 election, propelled the immigration issue to the national level, suing the federal government for education and health care expenses incurred by illegal aliens and their families.

Now he is pushing a measure that would bar un-

documented immigrants from receiving government aid and calling for a constitutional amendment that would deny their U.S.-born children the automatic citizenship they now receive.

The latest polls show that state Proposition 187 is backed by two-to-one in California, where the demise of the defense industry and a lag behind the U.S. economic rebound has boosted unemployment from 5.4 per cent to 8.3 per cent in the past four years.

President Bill Clinton, who was here Saturday campaigning for Mr. Wilson's Democratic opponent Brown, has rejected the measure as "plainly unconstitutional" and charged it would cause the troubled state even more problems.

"If you don't give the children health care, you can create health risks for the society generally," he said at a White House news conference Friday. "If you don't give the children education and they're still in the country and you can't get them out, they'll be on the street and then the increased risks of crime and other antisocial behaviour will go up."

Other California Democrats have condemned the bill, including Senator Diane Feinstein, who is running one of the closest — and most expensive — races in the Nov. 8 mid-term elections.

"I know this could cost me votes, quite possibly even the election, but I simply do not believe it will work," she said this week.

Bride will be too precious to be left alone

SINGAPORE (AP) — Diamonds are forever. Or at least for a day. When celebrity TV actors Yang Liping and Li Naixing get married on Nov. 11, the bride's flowing off-white wedding gown will be studded with about 300 diamonds worth about 2 million Singapore dollars (U.S.\$1.5 million). "I will have to keep looking at the floor to make sure none of the diamonds drop off," said Li, who has been voted the most popular male actor three times. The jewelry will be loaned by a local shop, which is also giving the bride —



A man fights with a boy after the boy tried to cut to the front of the line of people waiting for water in Port-au-Prince. Many Haitians have to wait in line for

Human rights observers return to Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — International Human rights monitors expelled from Haiti in July by the military government returned Saturday to investigate violations throughout the country, a spokesman said.

Haiti's greatly weakened army has said it will search the homes of people suspected of having illegal arms beginning next week and warned suspects to turn in their firearms or face arrest.

Some 13 observers and four administrative staff from the rights mission left the neighbouring Dominican Republic by car Saturday morning and arrived in the Haitian capital on Saturday afternoon, said deputy head of the mission Tiebile Drame.

He said it was hoped eventually to increase the number of rights monitors throughout Haiti to about 300.

Mr. Drame said the joint United Nations/Organisation of American States mission would begin investigating hu-

man rights violations within 10 days.

About 100 observers and staff members fled to the Dominican Republic in July after being expelled by the military regime in control at the time.

The climate for the mission's return was created by the arrival of 15,000 American soldiers in Haiti to insure a peaceful transition to democracy and the resignation of the generals who led a military coup in 1991.

The transition was completed last week with the return to power of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Presidental aides said Mr. Aristide met business and political figures at the national palace on Saturday morning to review the week's events and prepare for the coming week.

Political experts have said it was important for Mr. Aristide to name a new prime minister quickly to succeed

water due to inadequate facilities and inadequate distribution of water (AFP photo)

caretaker Prime Minister Robert Malval to demonstrate that he is capable of taking decisive action and is beginning to address the issue of Haiti's recovery.

Haiti's army, now purged of most of the anti-Aristide top ranks, in a statement Friday urged people with illegal arms to turn them in.

It said the homes of people suspected of holding illegal weapons would be searched from next week and violators would be arrested.

The last contingent of nearly 1,000 Bangladeshi soldiers flew Saturday to Haiti to join a multinational force assigned to keep the peace in the Caribbean nation.

About 330 Bangladeshi flew each day Thursday, Friday and Saturday, said army Maj. Steve Panzon, spokesman for a U.S. team that provided refresher training.

Another 136 peacekeepers from Guatemala are to fly Monday to Haiti.

16 tanker crew feared dead after Philippine typhoon

MANILA (R) — Sixteen crewmen from an oil tanker which broke in two and sank west of the Philippines after being battered by typhoon Teresa have not been found and are feared dead, rescue officials said on Sunday.

Twenty crewmen of the 38,263-tonne Maltese-registered tanker Thanassis were picked up by rescue ships in the South China Sea, a Coast Guard official said by phone. One crewman earlier reported floating in the water dead was rescued alive.

"The 16 remain unaccounted for. Their chances for surviving are decreasing. We just don't know," one rescue official said.

High waves whipped up by the typhoon's 150-kph (90-mph) winds broke the ship in half. Three ships and two planes were still in the area

searching for the remaining crew.

The vessel was on its way to Singapore with a cargo of fuel oil from Nakhodka in Russia's Pacific Far East. An oil slick could be seen from the air but was breaking up in the rough seas, a Hong Kong Marine Rescue official said.

Teresa wreaked havoc in Manila and across a wide swath of the main island of Luzon, killing nine people, making thousands homeless, toppling trees and power lines and blocking out much of Manila.

Eight of the victims died when trees or walls fell on them. One 70-year-old man in the Las Pinas district of Manila said Sunday.

Uprooted trees littered city streets and public utility crews tried to restore electric power in Manila.

The power just came on and I barely had time to take a bath when it went out again," a resident of the Mandaluyong district of Manila told a radio call-in show Sunday.

The toll from the storm may rise as reports reach the

capital from isolated areas such as Polillo Island, which bore the brunt of the typhoon. More than 90 per cent of the houses on Polillo, which faces the Pacific Ocean, were destroyed.

Damage to crops and property has been estimated at almost \$16 million, a relief official said.

President Fidel Ramos declared a state of calamity Saturday in Manila and surrounding provinces. Heavy rains triggered mudflows of volcanic debris from Mount Pinatubo and forced hundreds of families to flee to higher ground.

A second storm, typhoon Verna, was in the Pacific and headed towards the northern edge of Luzon Island, where it could cause further damage to crops and houses.

37% of Swedes for, 37% against joining EU — poll

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — A poll published Sunday in the daily *Goeteborgs-Posten* showed that 37 per cent of Swedes are in favour of joining the European Union (EU) and an equal number are opposed.

It added that 26 per cent are undecided.

The poll, conducted by the Sifo Institute between Monday and Thursday of last week, showed that within a

two-week period, the number of those opposed to the EU has gone down from 40 per cent to 37 per cent, while the number of those in favour has remained unchanged.

Of the 1,000 people interviewed for the poll, 88 per cent said they would go out and vote and had the referendum on joining the EU taken place the day of the interview.

The referendum vote is

scheduled for Nov. 13.

In Oslo, an opinion poll said Sunday less than 30 per cent of Norwegians want to join the European Union while 46 per cent are against it.

The poll sponsored by the Oslo daily *Dagbladet* showed that the outcome in Finland where 56.9 per cent voted on Oct. 16 in favour of EU membership, had done little

to influence support for the EU in Norway.

In October support for joining the EU declined by one per cent in Norway slipping from 30 to 29 per cent.

The number of those opposed rose by two per cent from 44 to 46 per cent.

But one person in four is still undecided.

The referendum will be held in Norway on Nov. 28.

Hungary's leaders, once enemies, mark 1956 revolt

BUDAPEST (R) — Hungary's president and prime minister, enemies at the time of their country's 1956 uprising, stood shoulder to shoulder Sunday to mark the anniversary of the bloody revolt against Communist rule.

President Arpad Goncz, once sentenced to death for joining the uprising that was smashed by Soviet tanks, and Prime Minister Gyula Horn, who once served in the militia that helped restore Communist control, together laid a wreath at the cemetery where prominent victims of 1956 now lie.

Calls at the ceremony to past division to be set aside clearly rankled some and they expressed bitterness at the presence of pro-Moscow Communists at the cemetery.

Mr. Goncz was flanked by Zoltan Gal, like Mr. Horn an official from the reform Communist government ousted in 1990 who made the political

republic to forgive and forget, Mr. Horn's presence at Sunday's ceremony ranked for some.

"Those people who were beating us, all the AVH (secret police) guys, are standing here too," said one 75-year-old man who declined to give his name but who said he spent nine years as a political prisoner under Communist rule.

"Grey-haired Gabor Danko also took umbra.

"Those people who were executioners should not pretend to be revolutionaries now," he grumbled.

Activists from Hungary's radical right, which the elections in May showed does not enjoy widespread political support, organised separate commemorations of the anniversary.

One rally drew around 100 people, many of them sporting shorn heads typical of extreme rightists.

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Bosnia seeks guarantees for Igman road protection

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — The Bosnian government Sunday sought guarantees from the U.N. that its planned withdrawal of forces from a demilitarised zone (DMZ) on Mount Igman, near Sarajevo, would not jeopardise them and only route out of the city.

The commander of the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Sarajevo, French General Herve Gobilliard, met with General Vahid Karavevic, commander of the Bosnian 1st Army Corps, to discuss the military situation in the wake of Saturday's political agreement on the withdrawal of Bosnian troops from the Igman DMZ, a U.N. spokesman said.

Bosnian Vice-President Ejup Ganic Saturday agreed to the withdrawal of some 500 soldiers who had infiltrated the area in breach of the DMZ accord, following talks here with U.N. special envoy to the former Yugoslavia Yasushi Akashi.

But while Mr. Akashi made it plain he hoped the pull-out, due to start at noon Monday, would be completed within 24 to 36 hours, Mr. Ganic insisted that a total withdrawal would not take place until the U.N. guaranteed the safety of the Sarajevo lifeline — a winding mountain track on which Bosnian convoys must run a gauntlet of Serb machine-gun

A senior U.N. officer insisted Sunday that "there were no guarantee" and "no linkage" between the withdrawal of the Bosnian soldiers and measures that could be taken by UNPROFOR.

Once the Bosnian soldiers have left the DMZ, "all security measures are open to consideration," he said.

The withdrawal would help stabilise the military situation around Sarajevo, he added.

Another U.N. officer indicated that French forces responsible for the Igman sector might deploy additional troops to secure the area and establish more numerous observation posts to prevent Serb infiltrations.

The Bosnian Serbs had earlier threatened a direct attack on Muslim-led forces on Igman if these did not withdraw from the wedge-

shaped DMZ, established in August 1993 to stop an all-out Serb offensive from

shaping the capital's population at great risk.

The officials cited Bosnian army violations of a demilitarised zone (DMZ) in the mountains west of the city, sporadic firing of heavy weapons and trench-digging activities — all of which violate existing agreements.

"Any increase in the level of conflict or any unravelling of an already existing agreement is bound to destabilise the security situation in Sarajevo," said a senior U.N. officer.

In contrast, U.N. convoys have to rely on the goodwill of the Serbs to enter the city by way of the main roads which cross Serb-held territory and to fly in supplies to Sarajevo Airport within rifle range of Serb soldiers.

The Serbs have recently imposed numerous restrictions on U.N. convoys — notably targeting fuel shipments — but UNPROFOR officers said Sunday they felt confident that the UNPROFOR and UNHCR (U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees) convoys would be given greater freedom of movement in the wake of Mr. Akashi's meeting Saturday with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic in his Pale stronghold.

Meanwhile U.N. officials said Sunday the Bosnian government army's activities are destabilising the military situation around Sarajevo.

Conditions around the city gradually improved as military

violations were restored, tram service resumed and routes for commercial goods were opened.

But the situation began to deteriorate again in August after Bosnian Serbs rejected an international peace plan to end the war and neighbouring Yugoslavia — once their staunchest ally — sealed the border to fuel and military supplies.

Bosnian Serb forces began firing on the main government supply route into the city, effectively closing it.

Muslim-led government troops eventually retaliated by occupying a demilitarised zone on Mount Igman, from which they can fire onto a Serb supply route into the town of Trnovo.

Government forces also advanced — sometimes by blasting trenches through solid rock — to positions from which they could fire onto two other Serb supply routes, one from Pale to Vogosca and the other from Pale to Lukavica.

U.N. officials told reporters Sunday that Bosnian Serb army restraint in response to these provocations could soon evaporate, plunging Sarajevo back into a cycle of war that peacekeepers would be powerless to prevent.

The government is demanding U.N. peacekeepers provide greater security for the Igman logistics road.



Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic (right) meets with U.N. special envoy for former Yugoslavia Yasushi Akashi (left), head of the UNPROFOR Civil Affairs Sergio Vieira de Mello (2nd left) and UNPROFOR commander-in-chief for Bosnia, General Michael Rose (3rd left) in Pale, the capital of the self-styled Bosnian Serb Republic (APP photo)

Korea is still 'very explosive' — Shalikashvili

WASHINGTON (Agencies)

— The top U.S. military officer says North Korea's massive deployment of conventional forces near South Korea's border is potentially a "very explosive situation," the Washington Post reported in Sunday editions.

General John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said he is "well satisfied" with the agreement North Korea signed Friday to freeze and eventually dismantle facilities capable of producing nuclear weapons, according to the Post.

Gen. Shalikashvili said North Korea is building "one of the world's largest conventional warfare capabilities, whose only purpose is to be offensive in nature," the Post said.

The paper said that the effort includes the training of

occupied Philippines during World War II.

The general said that North Korea in the last few years has been building an offensive capability that is "very threatening" to the United States and to South Korea, according to the paper.

Gen. Shalikashvili said North Korea is building "one of the world's largest conventional warfare capabilities, whose only purpose is to be offensive in nature," the Post said.

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Sinn Fein deputy leader arrives in London

LONDON (Agencies) — Deputy Sinn Fein leader Martin McGuinness arrived here Monday from Belfast less than 48 hours after Britain decided to lift a ban on him and the leader of the IRA's political arm Gerry Adams.

Mr. McGuinness is due to take part in a BBC Television programme on Sunday afternoon.

On his arrival, Mr. McGuinness said British Prime Minister John Major's decision to lift the exclusion orders on Sinn Fein leaders was "very sensible."

"I think it was a very sensible decision that Mr. Major decided to lift the exclusion orders... It means I can go to Britain and speak to the British people about the peace process and about the reality of Britain's involvement in our country," Mr. McGuinness said.

On Friday Mr. Major acknowledged in a speech in Belfast that a ceasefire proclaimed on Sept. 1 by the Irish Republican Army (IRA) was permanent and that the ban on Sinn Fein leaders was no longer justified.

The move opens the way for exploratory talks with Sinn Fein to open before the end of the year.

Britain had hitherto refused to negotiate with Sinn Fein until the IRA declared a ceasefire and renounced violence.

Meanwhile a delegation representing two of Northern Ireland's loyalist parties is to head to the United States to discuss the recent peace developments in Northern Ireland.

The delegation heading to the United States will travel to New York, Boston and Washington to discuss the peace process.

Mr. Major said the peace process had made a "quantum leap forward" with his announcement of imminent talks with Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA (APP photo)

group will be able to meet with U.S. government officials.

The trip comes at the heels of a similar two-week visit by Gerry Adams, the head of Sinn Fein, the IRA's political arm.

In a separate development, anti-terrorist officers directed raids across southern Ireland Saturday against possible successors to the Irish Republican Army, police said.

Boycott is wrong tool

WHEN POLITICAL parties were licensed nearly two years ago, the rules of political activities were made clear to all who wanted to play. The political parties accepted these rules. They agreed to abide by the Constitution, the law and the National Charter.

The system thus allowed room for political activists to express their views from within. Parliament is a branch of government in which political parties with any popular base are represented. Through the legislature, all these political trends could make their stands known, articulate these views and lobby for them. If these views have a majority, they would prevail. If not, they will be defeated by those with greater support. Such are the rules of democracy. The majority gets its opinions through, the minority respects the outcome.

This is why we find the boycotting of some Islamist deputies of the opening session of Parliament Saturday a move that seems to be motivated by political rigidity and immature politics.

The six Islamic Action Front deputies who boycotted the session did not do much to serve the interest of the Kingdom by their behaviour. They are representatives of the people. If they believe the peace treaty conflicts with the interest of the Kingdom, they should fight it — not with emotional theatrics, though, but with solid reasoning that can explain the advantages and disadvantages of the peace treaty. In any case, instead of boycotting the King's speech from the Throne, they should have opted to exercise their protest in other forms and means available to them, like voting against the treaty when it is presented to them, or they could withhold confidence from the government itself.

The Islamist and other leftist and pan-Arabist deputies who oppose peace with Israel have made a point of asserting their commitment to democracy. All indications are that they are not the majority in Parliament. They should accept that and work out a programme through which they can rely on reason to muster more support if what they believe is right.

The peace opponents will not be doing their job of protecting the interests of their constituencies by clinging to their ideology oblivious to the realities of the day.

These realities are that peace is inevitable, that the peace treaty with Israel is going to be ratified by Parliament and that the Kingdom is more than in need of preparing itself for the new era.

Here is where the peace opponents' efforts should be directed. They themselves speak of the danger of Israeli domination of the region in times of peace due to Israel's superiority in the economic, military, trade, and technological fields. They will not stop this domination by cursing the darkness and preaching against peace. This can be done through improving the performance of our economy, equipping future generations with solid education and skills and, in short, putting our house in order. In that respect, what needs to be done is enormous.

The opponents of peace will gain more credibility by articulating programmes to deal with the challenges that the nation will face. That has yet to be done. Meanwhile, rocking the boat will only hurt the Kingdom and its interests and will expose the Kingdom to the dangers of domination by Israel.

Peace is coming to the area with a force that the opposition will not be able to stop. Thus, the opponents of peace should not engage themselves in a losing battle. They should focus on areas where their efforts can bear fruit. Dealing with the challenges of peace is an area where Jordan can still launch a fruitful effort. The opposition should contribute to this effort, not bury itself in the bubble of blind ideologies to the detriment of the whole nation.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT WAS perhaps a coincidence that while the Jordanian and Israeli government were putting the finishing touches on their peace treaty, which would supposedly restore Jordan's water rights, the largest part of the capital Amman faced long periods of disruption of water supplies, said Mahmoud Rimawi, a columnist in *Al Ra'i* daily, Sunday. Just before the disruption of the supplies, the Jordan Valley farmlands were reported to have been flooded with rain water that blocked the King Abdullah Canal, which the Ministry of Water and Irrigation said would be cleared within 48 hours, added the writer. But, he said, two weeks after the blockage, matters still were not put right and neither were water supplies to Amman, giving rise to questions of whether the peace treaty has anything to do with the disruption of water supplies. People should get their share of water for all domestic and other purposes because it is an essential commodity for life and people have been led to believe that the peace treaty would ensure more rather than less supplies of water, argued the writer.

Human Rights File

By Waleed Sadi

All is not well with U.N. human rights organisation

SEVERAL YEARS ago, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and other international organisations in Geneva caused a fury among U.N. human rights activists who he called for streamlining of the U.N. human rights system by cutting down on duplication and overlapping. Among other things, he called for the elimination altogether of the U.N. Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. The U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations Office in Geneva was not only concerned about the fact that the sub-commission's name has not much to do with its functions and mandate but rather because what it does is for all intents and purposes superfluous. The Economic and Social Council created this particular body to assist the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, the principal U.N. organ on human rights by preparing studies and examining systematic and human rights violations for consideration by the commission itself in due course. The commission ends up going through the same terrain at considerable cost and time of the international organisation.

Both bodies also conduct their functions through a string of special rapporteurs who for the most part do not carry out their mandate themselves but rely on the work of the Human Rights Centre in Geneva and the advisers that are recruited at considerable cost to the United Nations to assist these special rapporteurs do their work. What probably infuriated the candid American ambassador was not only the waste of time but the quality of the studies that emerge from all these activities. Drawing on the cost ineffectiveness of the sub-commission and other human rights activities, the ambassador spearheaded the call for revamping the U.N. human rights activities altogether from A to Z.

His appeal of course went unheeded and many delegations, including Western ones from Europe, fought tooth and nail his efforts to rock the boat. Everyone, it seems, wanted things to remain as they were because they got used

to the system functioning in the same old ways. In retrospect, it is unfortunate that the repeated calls for overhauling the U.N. human rights system went unanswered. What the U.S. touched upon in that early era is only the tip of the iceberg. If anybody tells you all is well with the U.N. Centre on Human Rights or that the U.N. or treaty human rights bodies carry out their tasks in an effective way is simply avoiding the truth. Take for example the proliferation of human rights treaty bodies.

There are ever increasing bodies that monitor treaties on racial discrimination, civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights, rights of the child, rights of women, torture, to name only a few. The trend to create more and more of such bodies as more and more conventions, sub-conventions and auxiliary treaties are drafted and adopted. Most if not all of these bodies's scope of interest overlaps with the functions of other committees. Whoever says therefore that there is no duplication of effort within the U.N. system on human rights is not privy to what is really going on there.

It is really high time that the repeated calls for overhauling the U.N. human rights activities be taken seriously. There is now a U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, a newly created post that is supposed to put more sense and coordination into the human rights activities of the international organisation. Unfortunately, the former Ecuadorian Foreign Minister Joss Ayala who was elected by the U.N. General Assembly last year to perform this task has not been given enough authority or funding to carry out this work. There is hope that this session of the General Assembly would rectify these shortcomings and accord Mr. Ayala the necessary tools to attain the required objectives. Otherwise, the U.N. system on human rights would remain where it is, mostly a talking machine that ends up obtaining only a fraction of what it had set out to accomplish.

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1994



M. KAHIL

By Graham Usher

SINCE OSLO, most analyses of the Palestinian political scene have focused on the declining fortunes of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in its struggle to transform itself from a national liberation movement into a political organisation fit for nation-building. One year on from the Washington ceremony, any dispassionate account of the Oslo process would have to admit that the results so far have been unimpressive. If the return of Mr. Arafat to Gaza and Jericho and the installation of a Palestine National Authority (PNA) have arrested the decline somewhat, the plain fact is that these — coupled with the 6,000-strong Palestinian police — are largely all that remains of the PLO in any unified sense.

Apart from sections of Mr. Arafat's Fatah movement and the minuscule Fida party, all of the PLO's main factions have now come out against Oslo, particularly in the version amended by the three Cairo agreements signed in February, April and May. Meanwhile, in Amman in August, 171 "prominent Palestinians" — including 82 members of the Palestine National Council (PNC) — swore to resist any change to the Palestinian Charter, declaring that Mr. Arafat no longer had "the authority to speak in the name of the PLO or commit it to anything."

These monumental ruptures, however, have to a large extent concealed the plight of the PLO opposition, particularly its Marxist Popular and Democratic Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP and DFLP). Yet these, too, are part of the current crisis of Palestinian national politics, constricted, no less than Fatah, by organisation and ideology that are unable to come to grips with either the new realities thrown up by self-rule or, generally, by the U.S.-inspired security order envisioned for the region in the aftermath of the Soviet collapse and the Gulf war.

The upshot — in the year after Oslo — has been opposition politics in the territories marked by theoretical dogma and organisational sclerosis.

Incompatibility of aims

The initial response of both the PFLP and the DFLP to Oslo was to resign from all PLO bodies and form a rejectionist bloc, along with the Islamist Hamas and Islamic Jihad and a medley of Arab satellite sects. Threatening to sabotage the "agreement of shame" by all means necessary, the rejectionists instead became bogged down in organisational wrangles, with Hamas demanding "as the largest opposition force," 40 per cent representation on all joint committees and the PLO factions calling for equal shares.

The matter was formally

The PLO opposition: Rebels without a constituency



— the PFLP and DFLP united temporarily with Fatah activists to revive the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising (UNLU). But the conditions of UNLU's previous success — the reality of the intifada — no longer obtained. What now dominated the political landscape was Oslo, and the PLO was still fractured over it. The reformed UNLU issued one statement condemning the massacre and then, predictably, disappeared.

Even more culpably, the PLO opposition had yet to formulate a coherent political programme outlining its positions vis-a-vis the fact of self-rule. Yet the urgency of doing so had been aired time and again from among its own cadres. For example, leftist journalist Walid Salim railed in April: "How do we relate to the autonomy? Should the democratic forces (i.e. the PLO opposition) declare themselves to be non-governmental organisations

during the autonomy period? What will be our relationship to the autonomy institutions? What is our position towards the Palestinian constitution and legal system? The questions are many but, except for specific positions here and there, there have been no clear, official and comprehensive responses."

When pressed to construct a positive political alternative to Oslo, the opposition's usual replay was that, in the words of leading PFLP and DFLP women activists Maha Nasar and Aida Issawi, "it is not our job to create a new alternative to guard the original agenda of the PLO, which the PLO relinquished in the agreement."

This may have been politically correct on the scale of orthodoxy; it was disastrous on the terrain of real politics. One year after Oslo, opinion polls in the territories registered the combined support for the PLO opposition at around

10 per cent. Cautious retreat from rejectionism In the run-up to self-rule — especially when confronted with the tangible presence of a Palestinian police force and the return of PLO officials — the opposition beat a cautious retreat from the absolute rejectionism expressed by figures like Nassar and Issawi. In its stead has been put a politics of ambivalence. In June, the PFLP's veteran leader, George Habash, issued his most conciliatory statement since Oslo, calling on the opposition "not to take a negative stance towards Palestinian institutions that offer services during the interim phase and to develop its... social and national performance in a way that serves its policies."

Inside the territories also, activists like Abu Jiyab have increasingly spoken of the opposition's current priorities being not just mobilising to confront the agreement, but equally to prevent Mr. Arafat from establishing "a dictatorial self-rule. Pursuance of this, he suggests includes not merely participation in public bodies like municipalities, but perhaps also in elections to the PNA: "Our formal position is not to participate. But, personally, I feel that the opposition has to wait and see what kind of electoral system is proposed."

There have also been internal discussions as to the future relations between the opposition's cadres inside the territories and those in the diaspora, a debate that is bound to develop as PFLP and DFLP figures return to Palestine. Walid Salim, for instance, argues that it has been the preponderance of the Damascus leadership to decision-making that is at the root of the opposition's beneficial performance since Oslo, as the outside "appropriates authority from institutions" inside and "disciplines them for a role of relaying its orders to the rank and file."

The bureaucratic conception of politics, says Ahd Jiyab, also accounts for the PLO opposition's historic failure to capitalise on the achievements of the *intifada* when compared to the Islamists' relative success: "Hamas' growth in the uprising can be attributed to the fact that it has one, and only one, leadership — inside — and therefore does not suffer from the results of having a variety of leadership groups, or of the existence of various centres which issue their directives from a distance, without being strongly and directly connected to what it is going on here."

If the PLO opposition is to avoid the very real charge of irrelevance and

meet the challenges of the interim period, it will have to reform its organisational structure and adapt its short-term political aims. The first step, says PNC member Jamil Hilal, is for all the PLO groups to divest themselves of their heros, but now outdated, guerrilla past: "Everything suggests that the time has come to move from the present system of faction to a system of political parties with all that entails, including making them accountable to the public, making known their political and social programmes, and instituting a system of democratic competition for positions of public responsibility and office."

Such a posture need not preclude military struggle or underground forms of organisation, but it would assert that the opposition's primary role for the interim period is the political one of laying the foundations of a democratic Palestinian civil society. For Palestinian academic George Giacaman, this is less a choice than an obligation: "The opposition will be unable to stay alive except under a PNA that guarantees freedom of association and political activity, defends civil liberties, allows public decision-making and governs by rule of law instead of the random rule of an individual or party."

In short, "the pillar of Palestinian civil society is going to be the presence of opposition parties."

The second step would be for the opposition to lead its political and organisational weight to those demanding reform of the PLO, particularly the independents grouped around Gaza's Haidar Abdul Shafi, the Palestine People's party and numerous Fatah dissidents. For this alliance to be meaningful, however, it would have to agree on an overhaul of the old quota system, whereby PLO factions gained automatic representation on bodies like the PNC, in favour of a democratic system based on direct elections from independent Palestinian national institutions, both inside the territories and without. In other words, it would mean the opposition forswearing the very mechanism that has ensured its presence on PLO bodies for the last 25 years.

For one leading PFLP activists who spoke on condition of anonymity it is a gamble worth taking. He summarised the opposition's current dilemma as one in which its politics is still suspended somewhere between nostalgia and fact. If the opposition is to have a future, however, it is the latter that must prevail: "Unless we redefine our politics on the new terrain of self-rule, we will, ten years down the road, end up like Ahmad Jiyab (the PFLP General Command leader whose base is strong in Damascus but marginal in the territories). That is to say, we will be pure in our beliefs, but utterly insignificant in our influence."

Middle East International

Feature
Israel arrests
Hamas members
...
warns against
self pins he

Features

Israel arrests Hamas members

(Continued from page 1) pied West Bank and neighbouring Arab countries for the "hit list," the Observer said quoting a security source.

In contrast to the cabinet's hardline stand, Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said earlier Sunday that he accepted in principle negotiations with Hamas.

"I believe we have passed the stage where we would refuse on principle to talk with such an organisation," Beilin told army radio.

His comments came after a Hamas official in Nablus on the West Bank, Sheikh Jamal Salim, said he was in favour of a ceasefire between Israel and the group's armed wing, Fatah Al Qassam.

In Cairo, Israel would tell Palestinians it expects them to crush groups such as Hamas, which are trying to destroy the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said.

Speaking ahead of a negotiating forum with the Palestinians, Mr. Peres told reporters:

"We expect that the Palestinians like ourselves to stop the ones who want to kill the agreement between us from executing their will, and together we shall work for peace, for economic prosperity and for tranquillity to all people — fighting terrorism and fighting violence."

The PLO says a crackdown on Hamas will trigger civil



Israeli soldiers interrogate a Palestinian youth following the stabbing of a soldier in the cavelike town of Hebron on the West Bank (AFP photo)

strife and Palestinian ambassador in Cairo, Zohdi Al Kudra, told Reuters it would not answer Israeli demands to hit Hamas.

"They can suggest what they want but we respond the way we want. No one dictates to us what we should do. The (Palestinian) authority does not receive instructions from Israel or anybody," he said.

The meeting with Palestinian officials is to tackle a set of issues, including how to deal with Hamas.

Israel confirmed on Sunday that a self-avowed "living martyr" from Hamas carried out the bus suicide bombing, bringing the final death toll to

23. In a Hamas videotape issued after the attack, Saleh Abdul Rahim Al Souwi, 27, of the occupied West Bank, said farewell to his family and friends, the normal practice of Hamas guerrillas about to embark on suicide missions.

"We have definitely identified the remains" of the man who was involved in the bus attack, said police spokesman Eric Bar-Chen, citing the results of blood tests and skin-cell tests from Souwi's relatives.

He said Souwi killed himself, 20 Israelis, a Dutch national and one person from Sierra Leone.

amic deputy Ahmad Bager told AFP.

"Most of the parliament's 60 members, if not all of them, refuse totally to open any dialogue with Iraqi officials who are well-known for deceiving others."

Speaker Saleh said Saturday he was "ready to undertake a dialogue with all the Kuwaiti parties, especially the parliament, to reach solutions guaranteeing the rights of each party."

Iraq has "no choice but to conform to (U.N.) Resolution 833" calling for Baghdad to recognise Kuwait, giving up its historical claim to the emirate, Mr. Saleh added.

But Mr. Bager said: "If Iraq wants to conform to Resolution 833, including recognising the borders, they have to know that the United Nations is their only way and not us."

Naser Al Sanaa, another deputy, told AFP that Kuwaitis did not trust Iraqi officials who "talk with no action."

Iraq on Sunday denounced U.S. President Bill Clinton's scheduled Middle East tour as one aimed at keeping American troops permanently in the Gulf.

"Clinton is bringing a plan guaranteeing a permanent presence for his troops," Iraq's ruling Baath Party daily, Al Thawra, said in the official media's first comment on this week's tour.

It also denounced the leaders of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, which Mr. Clinton is to visit, and accused Washington of trying to seize the oil wealth of both these countries.

Al Thawra said the United States seeks to "milk" Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to make them dependent on it.

Mr. Clinton is to attend the historic signing Wednesday of a peace treaty between Jordan and Israel. His stops include Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Syria.

"We will never accept to sit down with anybody representing such a regime," Isla-

U.S. warns against Iraqi move

(Continued from page 1)

holding Iraq's right to move troops anywhere in the country, declined to answer reporters when they asked on Saturday whether Baghdad would send the Republican Guards south again in defiance of U.S. and British warnings.

Foreign Minister Mohammad-Saeed Al-Sabah, in remarks published on Sunday, played down the U.S. and British warnings, saying they were meant only to influence U.N. Security Council members.

Mr. Sabah also accused the United States and Britain of dominating the U.N. Security Council and interpreting resolutions to fit their needs.

"How do these governments allow themselves to explain a resolution issued by the Security Council as they like," Mr. Sabah told the state-run Iraqi News Agency.

"This is another attempt by those governments to dominate the Security Council and impose their unjust will on it," Mr. Sabah said of the U.S. and British warnings.

Mr. Sabah said "the stance of these two domineering governments differs from the essence of the stances of majority countries of the council."

"We will inform members of the council of these two unilateral steps from the side of America and Britain, and will confirm the necessity of legal, just and balanced explanation of Security Council resolutions," Mr. Sabah said.

He also avoided referring to whether Iraq would defy the warning, adding that while Baghdad rejected the U.S. interpretation of the resolution, Russia and France, both permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, did not share the American stand.

Israel pins hopes on Clinton trip

(Continued from page 1)

the brave" to which Syria aspires "requires a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and South Lebanon and the elimination of occupation."

"It is very important for the Arab countries, participants in the peace process, to feel that peace has ended injustice and occupation and brought to them security, tranquillity and justice," the newspaper noted.

"The just and comprehensive peace is the sole guarantee for security in the region," Tishrin added.

Mr. Clinton will meet President Assad in Damascus and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Israel on Thursday during a Middle East tour centred on the signing of the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan.

Israel's cabinet on Sunday endorsed the treaty, finalised in Jordan last week, while work crews from Israel and Jordan put up their second border crossing in three

months — this one a bridge over the River Jordan.

An outspokenly dovish politician, Mr. Beilin said Israel hoped Mr. Clinton would win a promise from Mr. Assad to enter high-level talks with Israel. This would "truly accelerate the process," he told Israeli army radio.

He said Israel also demanded that Syria take action against groups in Damascus which openly declare they intend to carry out "terrorist actions" against Israel.

Mr. Beilin said he believed Washington and Damascus were locked in intensive contacts to ensure they reached an understanding on what would emerge from the Clinton-Assad summit meeting.

"Against the background that Syria is one of the seven countries defined as terrorist states by the Americans, this visit cannot be only a courteous tourist visit that will

not stress Islamists will not tolerate additional alleged encroachment by the government on their democratic rights, saying the bloc "leaves all its options open" to deal with the speaker of the

IAF to boycott possible speech

(Continued from page 1)

ty with the Jewish state.

But opposition to the treaty will only be expressed in democratic, constitutional and lawful manners, IAF leaders stressed.

They said they would fight the peace treaty in Parliament, at the party and popular levels. IAF members have reportedly been attacking the treaty during the religious sermons at mosques.

Mr. Mansour said the IAF will also be organising rallies to express their rejection of peace with Israel, stressing that rallies are a legal means of expressing points of view in Jordan.

Mr. Mansour was forceful in stressing Islamists will not tolerate additional alleged encroachment by the government on their democratic rights, saying the bloc "leaves all its options open" to deal with the speaker of the

Shorter work weeks can give a boost to the economy

By Marwan Atalla

IT IS time for the Jordanian public to consider an alternative to the current six day, one-shift, work schedule. Jordan is and will continue to be an important part of the future of this area, and it will play a fundamental role in connecting this region with the rest of the world. Therefore, it is time to look at ways to improve efficiency, while giving the people and organisations maximum flexibility.

Several studies and surveys have been conducted regarding this subject, and several recommendations have been made, none of which offers a satisfactory answer to all concerned. An experimental project was also done in 1990/91, in which Thursdays and Fridays were taken as the weekend, and the working hours were extended. The experiment was not successful due to several factors, the two most important of which are:

(1) Insufficient time was given for people to adjust, (2) It increased the gap between the country and the West due to Thursday being a weekend day.

It is difficult to find a system that suits everyone. As a private company, we conducted our own research regarding working hours, and the staff were split three ways when voting on most issues. However, when taking a long-term view, there must always be short-term sacrifices.

The system I am proposing is for all sectors, private and public. It is by no means a perfect system, but it is flexible enough to accommodate most people.

The system is based on flex-time, and is designed

to give the employer the necessary number of working hours to run an organisation efficiently, while providing the employee with sufficient flexibility to suit his or her lifestyle, transportation and other needs.

the employees. The system described above is currently being used in the U.S., Europe, and most of the Far East, and it has proven to be extremely efficient. Among its advantages are:

The system is based on a five day, 40-hour work week, which is an internationally accepted standard. The five working days would be Sunday through Thursday, with Fridays and Saturdays as official holidays, known world-wide as the weekend. Friday is chosen for religious reasons, and Saturday in order to allow us maximum overlap with the weekend in the West and other countries. The system is based on a five day, 40-hour work week, which is an internationally accepted standard. The five working days would be Sunday through Thursday, with Fridays and Saturdays as official holidays, known world-wide as the weekend. Friday is chosen for religious reasons, and Saturday in order to allow us maximum overlap with the weekend in the West and other countries. The system is based on a five day, 40-hour work week, which is an internationally accepted standard. The five working days would be Sunday through Thursday, with Fridays and Saturdays as official holidays, known world-wide as the weekend. 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Kuwait might raise customs fees

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait is struggling to curb a Gulf war-inflated budget deficit, may impose new fees that could double customs revenue, officials say.

A panel of state officials is preparing six alternative plans to increase customs charges on most of the emirate's imports. Ibrahim Al Ghani, director-general of customs, told Reuters.

"I prefer the plan that achieves a (customs income) rise of 80 or 100 per cent," said Sheikh Ghani, a member of the committee formed by Finance Minister Nasser Al Rodhan.

The results of the study will be given to the cabinet during the current fiscal year ending on June 30, 1995, and it will decide which system it wants to adopt. Sheikh Ghani said.

Officials such as Sheikh Ghani see plenty of scope for increasing customs revenues, which normally accounts for less than five per cent of total state revenue. Kuwaiti customs fees are among the lowest of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries comprising Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman and Kuwait. Sheikh Ghani said.

In 1984-89 imports were worth on average 1.7 billion dinars (\$5.7 billion) annually. Average customs income was just 60 million dinars (\$200 million) annually, in that period.

Sheikh Rodhan, after meetings with parliamentarians in June, said he wanted to increase state revenue by about 100 million dinars (\$340 million) in 1994-95. His plans envisaged most of the new revenue coming from increases in customs goods.

Revenue from customs levies in calendar 1993 amounted to about 70 million dinars (\$235 million). The emirate projects a 1.502 billion dinars (\$5.0 billion) budget deficit in 1994-95, equivalent to a quarter of gross domestic product.

Sheikh Ghani ruled out radical customs hikes.

"We are a trading country, there is no space for such increase," he said. "We also abide by Gulf Cooperation Council agreements that keep customs of member countries at a maximum of 20 per cent on normal goods."

U.S. banker urges Arab countries to provide more economic information

KUWAIT (R) — Arab Gulf states should make economic information more widely available to attract back some of the billions of dollars invested overseas by the private sector, a U.S. banker said Sunday.

The suggestion was one of several made by Robert Hormats, vice chairman of Goldman Sachs International Ltd, about how Gulf states might repatriate funds placed outside the region.

"Sometimes it's very hard to get information from this region," he told a conference on Gulf banking. "A flow of

economic information to investors is important."

He was speaking in answer to a question from the floor after delivering a paper on global capital flows at the conference hosted by the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council and National Bank of Kuwait, a commercial bank.

The Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corp says between 1950 and 1992 total Arab private investment outside the Arab World was about \$650 billion compared to \$11.9 billion in the Arab

World. Mr. Hormats advocated the development of international accounting standards which he said were not universal in the region.

Also, the region should increase the efficiency and liquidity of local capital markets and widen the range of the assets that could be bought.

He said privatisation formed part of this process but "I do not believe in privatisation for its own sake." Privatisation without making the necessary regulatory

changes had no meaning. He said that, for example, a 1993 World Bank report on privatisation in Kuwait outlined considerable scope for sell-offs. But he commented that the process could not be rushed.

The real test of privatisation is not the speed with which it is conducted but the care an quality that goes into its preparation."

Mr. Hormats said that even if only 10 or 15 per cent of overseas investments were attracted back into the Gulf it would give a significant boost to the region's economy.

Russia promises low inflation in tough 1995 budget plan

MOSCOW (R) — Russia has pledged a crackdown on inflation in its 1995 budget plans, but a deal approved in outline form last week is still far from reality.

Economists, wary of a government promise of 600 per cent monthly inflation next year, said big risks remained.

Parliament could throw a spanner in the stabilisation works, spending and revenue targets may be hard to meet, and new loans to close a budget gap are not yet on the table.

"There are three big questions about the budget," said a senior Western economist. "Can the government get it through parliament, can they do what they are promising to do and, even if they do, will it actually work?"

The statement said that "more substantial management resources" should be devoted to these areas. He also called for the expansion of establishment of related information networks.

"It is equally essential that APEC member economies create more business-friendly environments," he said, calling for further deregulation and measures to liberalise trade and investment.

Mr. Onishi said the APEC private-sector participants also sought harmonised standards and mutual recognition, simplified customs procedures, transparent administration and improved market access.

Australia's Small Business, Customs and Construction Minister Chris Schacht told the joint news conference at the end of the two-day meeting that he wanted to promote greater private-sector participation next year.

"We cannot be effective ministers for small and medium enterprises if we don't have the input from (small and medium enterprises) themselves," he said.

"non-inflationary means" — bigger issues of government securities and the effective use of \$6 billion of expected international aid.

Central bank credits, the current inflationary way to close a budget gap, are out.

"It is possible 1995 will become the year of stabilisation and in the following year we will be able to manage without any Western credits," Izvestia newspaper Saturday quoted Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Shokhin as saying.

It is the first time since economic reforms began that Russia has presented a budget before the start of the year.

The final version of the 1993 budget was only approved in December of that year, while parliament took until this summer to approve 1994 spending plans.

Mr. Shokhin described the budget as "a new ideology." Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, speaking before the government gave the plans a provisional seal of approval, said it represented a new concept and a tougher line on reform.

Russia, which launched economic reforms in January

Iran loses 1/3 of its agricultural production each year

OSAKA, Japan (AFP) — Ministers from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum agreed Sunday to deepen their newly-launched policy dialogue on small-business development in tandem with the private sector.

Japan's International Trade and Industry Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto told a news conference that ministers from the 17 countries had agreed to meet again next year in Australia after their inaugural meeting in Osaka.

A joint statement released at the end of the two-day ministerial meeting, which also included various business leaders from APEC countries, said small and medium enterprises were "increasingly important" for the region.

The ministers called for in-depth studies on regional interdependence, more open trade and deregulation for small businesses and suggestions on how they could adjust to such an environment.

In addition, they recommended that an existing group of experts on small and

medium-sized enterprises be upgraded into an "ad-hoc policy-level group" reporting to senior officials of the five-year-old forum.

The statement said that smaller enterprises were "well-positioned for business expansion" and that sustained economic growth and new employment opportunities depended to a "great extent" on their activities.

"Addressing problems in the areas of human resources development, access to information technology and technology sharing, the availability of financing and market access should be priorities of all APEC member economies," the statement said.

But it also noted that policies adopted by each APEC member to deal with such priorities "will necessarily differ depending on the economy's stage of development and other special circumstances."

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APEC ministers agree to deepen small-dialogue business policy

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Mauritius lectures Africa on economic growth

GRAND BAY, Mauritius (R) — Leaders of Mauritius, which has enjoyed sustained economic growth in the past decade, have advised other African countries to follow their model if they want to achieve growth.

His statement came as the one-week PTA meeting ended in the early hours of Sunday.

Mauritius central bank governor Indur Rampbul warned delegates that, despite optimism that the world economy was recovering, prospects for most African states were limited.

"Economic progress has been extremely uneven. The growth performance of low-income countries in our region is weak, their external viability is undermined by

high debt burdens, and they face rampant unemployment and deteriorating living standards," he said.

In a paper presented at the conference, Sir Rampbul said that in spite of reform efforts, poverty among Africans was expected to worsen. "Reversing this trend will be one of the most challenging tasks in the years ahead."

Sir Rampbul added that sound macroeconomic policies, though necessary, would not alone ensure sustainable growth on the African continent.

"This is evidenced by the fact that after 10 years of structural adjustment policies pursued in sub-Saharan Africa, unemployment has increased fourfold and real wages declined by one-third," he said.

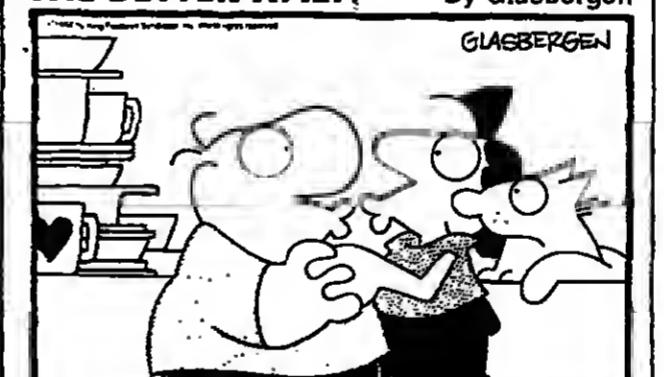
Sir Rampbul said world income was forecast to rise to \$500 billion with the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of talks in April.

But it was unlikely that African countries, exporting commodities and importing foodstuffs, would derive tangible benefits from the accord in the medium term.

PTA members are Angola, Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Rwanda, Mozambique, Swaziland and Tanzania.

"We need to make our kisses more interesting. I'm going to attempt a triple loop-the-loop with a twist!"

THE BETTER HALF, By Glasberg



"We need to make our kisses more interesting. I'm going to attempt a triple loop-the-loop with a twist!"

JUMBLE THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles. One letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ORBIL

LOBEN

TAUROH

LOOTIN

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: STUNG VAGUE CROUCH JAGUAR

Answer: What the switchboard operator was at the end of the day — RUNG OUT

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

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Answer: What the switch

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (October 17 — October 21, 1994)

AMMAN — The dollar depreciated sharply against other major currencies at the end of last week. It ended the week 0.83 per cent lower against the yen, 1.13 per cent lower against the mark and 1.88 per cent lower against sterling.

The U.S. unit declined Monday, on news that the ruling coalition in Germany had won the elections. It retreated to a year low against the mark to reach 1.4930 during trading hours, before climbing back at the close.

On Tuesday, the dollar continued to depreciate against sterling, while appreciating marginally against the yen and the mark. The dollar's depreciation was attributed to rumours that the vice president of the Federal Reserve Bank (Fed) has said that the Fed has no intention to tighten its monetary policy before year-end. However, the dollar depreciated later that day when Fed officials denied the rumour. Profit-taking also contributed to the dollar's appreciation.

The dollar depreciated further Wednesday. It dropped sharply against the yen, on early trading hours, to reach 96.75 yen, slightly above its lowest level against the Japanese currency since World War II. The dollar's depreciation was due to the release of the U.S. foreign trade statistics showing an increase in the deficit with Japan by 2.4% to \$5.8 billion in August. The overall trade deficit declined to \$9.74 billion, compared to expectations of \$9.9 billion.

However, the dollar appreciated later that day, on concerns that the Bank of Japan might intervene in the market to prop the dollar. In addition, comments made by a Fed member that the Fed has to tighten its monetary policy supported by the U.S. unit.

On Thursday, the dollar continued its depreciation to reach a year low against major European currencies, while testing its World War II low against the yen. The dollar was affected negatively by the release of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia report on area manufacturing activity. The report showed an increase in both the retail and wholesale prices by 51.3 per cent and 32.6 per cent in September, respectively.

Analysts indicated that these reports have contributed to traders' belief that the U.S. is still experiencing rapid

economic growth, which could lead to rising inflationary pressures.

Meanwhile, comments by the U.S. treasury secretary, stating that the U.S. has no intention to intervene to support its currency, contributed to the dollar's decline.

The dollar rose slightly against major currencies Friday, in view of remarks made by the U.S. treasury secretary that the U.S. and other G-7 countries are ready to support the dollar when it is appropriate. This news underscored traders' fears of possible concerted intervention by central banks to support the dollar.

The U.S. unit, thus ended the week at 1.5003 marks, 97.24 yen and at \$1.6260 to the pound sterling.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	14.10.94 Close	21.10.94 Close	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.5980	1.6160	1.658
Deutsche Mark	1.5173	1.5005	1.135
Swiss Franc	1.7625	1.7490	1.085
French Franc	5.7158	5.1300	1.465
Japanese Yen	98.05	97.24	0.635

USD per SGD

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Aid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6900	0.6910
Sterling Pound	1.1205	1.1264
Deutsche Mark	0.4594	0.4617
Swiss Franc	0.5521	0.5549
French Franc	0.1343	0.1350
Japanese Yen*	0.7092	0.7127
Dutch Guilder	0.4101	0.4122
Swedish Krona	0.6446	0.6446

Date: 23/10/1994

European motorists face heavier petrol taxes

By Martina Sabra
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The two-day visit of an Austrian trade delegation to Jordan has found a very positive echo in the last few months as cash-strapped governments raise petroleum taxes to shore up their finances.

"Petrol is the easiest thing to tax in the world. It's the cheapest way for governments to raise revenue," said Peter Regnier from Britain's Oil Price Assessments Ltd.

Motorists have benefited from marginally lower pump prices since August because of weak international oil prices.

But tax rises sweeping across Europe are likely to reverse the trend, Mr. Regnier says.

Motorists in Britain, France and Spain should all expect higher prices by January. Greece and Italy could also be in line for a jump. In Luxembourg and Denmark, they absorbed increases in October.

Mr. Regnier says unleaded petrol price rises could exceed leaded in many countries because governments no longer feel required to give it tax breaks. Unleaded sales now outstrip leaded in most European countries.

The proposed French budget outlines a 33 centimes per litre increase in unleaded prices against 24 centimes in leaded. Britain and other governments could decide to go the same route, Mr. Regnier says.

Spain is expected to add four pesetas per litre to pump prices, including a one per cent rise in VAT. Switzerland intends to introduce VAT on fuel in January, but prices are unlikely to be affected because it replaces a "turnover tax."

Germany currently has no plans for tax rises, but the recently elected government could yet come up with changes, Mr. Regnier added.

men's representatives, at Amman's Regency Palace Hotel.

According to Mr. Angerer, the number of finalised contracts was small, but "we are more interested in the quality than the quantity of contracts," he added.

Mr. Langer mentioned Austria's importance as a door for Jordan to the countries and markets of Eastern Europe. He underlined the excellent and year-long political ties between Jordan and Austria and Jordan's special role in the peace process, which would be likely to strengthen the country's importance for the future economic development of the region.

The volume of Austria's trade with Jordan amounted to \$30 million, in 1993, and is likely to increase by \$4 million to \$34 million in 1994. "Exports to Jordan accounted for 0.1 per cent of Austria's total exports. Jordan's exports to Austria totalled \$1 million during the same period accounting for one per cent of Jordan's over-

all exports.

While Austria was selling mainly manufactured goods, industrial equipments and pharmaceutical chemicals, Jordan exported fertilizers, textiles and vegetables.

Mohammad Samadi, Secretary-General of Jordan's Ministry of Industry and Trade, in a meeting with Mr. Langer Sunday, stressed the necessity to equalise the trade balance between Jordan and Austria and to focus on joint ventures. Up to now, trade relations between the two countries mainly rest on agents selling Austrian goods in Jordan.

Mr. Langer, in a meeting Sunday with Jordan's Chamber of Industry President Khalid Abu Hassan, expressed his wish that a delegation of Jordanian business representatives visit Austria in 1995.

A fact-finding-mission, consisting of seven Austrian company delegates, headed by Mr. Langer, leaves for Gaza Monday.

GIC chief: Arab Gulf banks should seek specialist niches

KUWAIT (R) — Arab Gulf banks looking for a new role in a crowded market should consider specialising to exploit profitable niches opened by privatisation, an investment expert has said.

"While overbanking in the traditional banking area is still the case, the field is still wide open in specialised banking," said Gulf Investment Corp. chief executive Khaled Al Fayed.

"These (opportunities) include corporate finance, mergers and advisory services. The move towards privatisation opens up a great opportunity for our banks to create for themselves a regional niche," he explained.

Mr. Fayed, a Saudi, was speaking at a conference on Gulf banking in the 1990s organised jointly by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and National Bank of Kuwait, a commercial bank.

He said that there were too many traditional commercial banks in the GCC states of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Some of the region's 160 banks were too small and technically backward to compete regionally, let alone globally.

"Keeping up with the vast advance in technology is

probably beyond the means of many of the small banks in the Gulf," he said. "The cost of technology has some major implications as to strategy, as it means banks will have to be more selective in what they do."

Some should merge to benefit from economies of scale, while Gulf governments, as the largest users of banking services, could help others by diverting more state business to them.

Others might want to diversify internationally but would have to weight this carefully as some lacked the skills and management depth to assess credit risk in unfamiliar areas.

"Gulf banks' competitive advantage beyond their region is very limited. It boils down in my judgement to our knowledge of our area and our access to business originating from our area," he pointed out. "We are relatively small players. None of us counts in the top 200 banks of the world in terms of our size or our equity."

Mr. Fayed said the regional financial market was fragmented and Gulf central bankers should help boost cross border banking by lifting legislative barriers to integration.

Such moves would create a genuine regional capital and money market and help pave the way for a unified economic market.

GIC is owned by the six GCC states and funds business and industrial ventures to diversify member states' economies away from dependence on oil.

Kuwait's central bank said the Gulf may have too many banks for its own good, and to survive some should merge, cut costs or improve services.

"Only strong banks survive. There is no room for slackness or reluctance in taking appropriate decisions, or for boasting of past achievements," governor, Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah, told the conference.

"Bank mergers are seen as an important instrument of rationalisation," he said.

Banks and the private sector generally will be increasingly called upon to help develop the region's state-dominated economies, but banks will need to reform themselves if they are to play an effective part, he stressed.

He said banks faced four challenges — overbanking, new technology, customer service and costs.

"Overbanking is a phenomenon in the GCC," he said. There were 160 banks in the Gulf Cooperation Council of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and Kuwait — only one less than in 1987, he said.

Speakers at the banking conference said payment of Gulf war costs and low oil prices have curbed Gulf governments' ability to fund development and spurred a move towards privatisation.

They had increased the demand for private sector finance and transfer to the banks more of the burden of funding growth and allocating resources.

Sheikh Salem said better application of new technology in settlement and payment would greatly improve efficiency.

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Parma capture the lead in Italy

ROME (AP) — Parma took a temporary lead in the Italian League championship Sunday following a 2-1 win over bottom club Reggiana. Marco converted from the spot after the headed opener by Italian international Dino Baggio.

Baggio's namesake, Roberto, FIFA's 1993 Player of the Year, confirmed his return to form after injury with the second goal in Juventus' 2-1 victory at Cremonese.

The 22-times Italian champions moved up to fourth thanks to Gianluca Vialli in the 39th minute and Baggio four minutes later.

AS Roma were to host

Genoa in Sunday's late

match and a win for Roma

would put them above Parma.

Lazio moved up to second

spot after last year's top scorers, Giuseppe Signori, hit an

88th minute goal in a 2-1 win

at Genoa.

AC Milan, who now have

just one point from three

European Champions

Leagues, could only

manage a goalless draw with Sampdoria at the San Siro stadium. With just one win in their last four matches, Fabio Capello's once feared team, are struggling.

Milan lost at lowly Padova last week and also had French international Marcel Desailly sent off. That result capped a disastrous week for the European champions who were beaten by derby rivals Inter in the first-leg of the Italian Cup days earlier.

They then had two points deducted by UEFA from their European Champions League tally for an incident in their recent home clash with Austrian side Casino Salzburg in which the visiting

goalkeeper Otto Konrad was hit by a bottle.

Fiorentina shot up from ninth to fifth spot with the attacking performance of the day as thrashed visitors Padova 4-1. Italy's top scorer Gabriel Batistuta from Argentina hit the fourth goal to keep him ahead with eight strikes.

Gothenburg clinch Swedish league title

STOCKHOLM (R) — Gothenburg clinched the Swedish League title Sunday with a goal 15 minutes from time on the final day of the season for a stirring 2-1 away victory at champions.

The defending champions, who needed a win to claim their 15th league title, looked like missing out until Mikael Martinsson struck the decisive goal in the 75th minute.

Örebro, who began the day level with Malmö and a point behind Gothenburg, won 3-0



Paris Saint Germain's striker Rai (right) attempts to avoid the tackle from Nice's defenders Frédéric Goria as part of France's First Division soccer match held in Nice, southern France Saturday (AFP photo)

U.S., Japan, Cuba, China, Brazil win again in volleyball

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP)

— The United States, Japan, Brazil, South Korea, China, Cuba, Azerbaijan and Ukraine all won Saturday at the women's World Volleyball Championship.

The United States scored their second sweeping victory in as many days, trouncing the Czech Republic 15-2, 15-1 and 15-1 in a match played in São Paulo.

Japan and Cuba also picked up their second consecutive wins in the championship's preliminary round, which is also being

held in the city of Belo Horizonte, about 360 miles (560 kilometers) northeast of São Paulo.

Japan easily beat Kenya 15-1, 15-3 and 15-4, while Cuba downed the Netherlands 15-4, 15-9 and 15-10.

Azerbaijan won its first game, beating Peru 15-12, 15-13 and 15-6.

In Belo Horizonte, South Korea won their early afternoon game against Romania 15-2, 15-3 and 15-7.

Brazil picked up its second victory downing Germany 15-5, 15-7 and 15-5 in a 50-minute game.

at Landskrona to finish runners-up.

Gothenburg took the lead in the 21st minute through Stefan Lindqvist, but Malmö, playing in front of 25,500 partisan fans, equalised just three minutes later with a goal from Jorgen Petersson.

Gothenburg are currently second in Group A of the European Champions League, level on points with Manchester United after victories over Barcelona and Galatasaray.

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Paris St Germain revive title hopes with 4-0 win

PARIS (R) — French champions Paris St Germain, inspired by Brazil's World Cup player Rai, revived their title hopes late Saturday with a crushing 4-0 win away to Nice.

Rai, sidelined for most of the early season in the wake of Brazil's world title, rediscovered his attacking flair with two goals and brought the Parisians back into title contention.

Sixth before the kick-off, PSG rose to fourth in the table, six points behind unbeaten leaders Nantes who had to settle for a lacklustre goalless draw at Sochaux.

With Nantes' nearest rivals Lyon sinking 4-0 at Lens, Paris St Germain made the most of a night of prolific scoring in the French League — 26 goals — to confirm on the domestic front their immaculate showing in the European Champions' League.

"You are going to be surprised because we will make it back to the top of the league. And we'll be hot contenders for the title," coach Luis Fernandez said.

Fernandez denied his team were mainly focused on the European Champions League, in which they are only team to have won all their three group games.

He said he had never lost faith in Rai: "He was professional enough to wait to work hard, and tonight I'm very happy to see what he had to offer."

The Brazilian opened the scoring with a fine header in the 20th minute, supplied the decisive pass to Liberia's George Weah for the second goal and made it 3-0 from the left in the 58th minute. Pascal Nouma sealed victory two minutes later.

"We sometimes had the impression that there were

ing revenue, out of the projected operational budget of 17 billion yen.

Because of the lack of competitive appeal, the games cannot command huge television fees.

Still, the U.S. network ABC and the global news channel CNN are expected to send commentators to Fukuoka Games, said Yoshiaki Osawa, the committee's broadcasting director.

The competitors who do turn up can expect the very best of facilities, however — especially Fukuoka Dome, one of Asia's first stadiums with a roof which can be opened and closed according to the weather.

The 5760-million Dome was built by Japan's supermarket king Isao Nakuchi as home ground for his professional baseball team the Daiei Hawks. U.S. pop'n'roll icons Michael Jackson and Madonna have packed the Dome since it opened in April last year.

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Sports

Johnson keeps IBF crown against determined Segura

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (AP) — Tom "Boom Boom" Johnson held off a determined challenge from Francisco Segura here Saturday to retain his International Boxing Federation (IBF) featherweight title by unanimous decision.

Segura, a one-time journeyman who transformed himself into a title contender after surviving a road accident that killed his wife and baby daughter in 1989, took the fight to the champion from the opening bell.

He absorbed all the punishment Johnson could dish out, including a second-round right that rocked him, and kept coming back for more.

"I thought I had him,"

Johnson said of that second-round blow that staggered Segura. "But he's got good defenses. He covers up very well. I tried to throw some to the body to set him up for

something up top, but he didn't drop his hands."

Segura, the IBF's top-ranked contender, turned pro in 1985. He won nine of his first 11 pro fights as a junior lightweight, then he quit.

"I had no business in the ring," the 28-year-old from California said, adding: "I had problems and I wasn't training. I was drinking."

Then came the accident in his pick-up truck. Segura suffered a broken ankle, his three-year-old son was unjured, but his wife and eight-month-old daughter were killed.

"You never forget that day," he says. "You learn to accept it and get on with your life. Thanks to God, I was turned to my life around."

Both fighters came out swinging, but in the end Johnson had the edge in speed and accuracy.

The champion from Detroit, who defended the title

for the fifth time in less than 14 months, reportedly had trouble making the 126-pound (57 kg) weight for the fight, was clearly leg weary in the 12th, though he was throwing nearly as many punches as ever.

"The 12th round is just as important as the first round," said Johnson, who has said he approaches every defense as if he were fighting for a vacant title.

"I don't ever think about getting relaxed. When a guy is swinging at you, you know he's trying to win and you can't relax. My goal was to go in and win every round."

The judges scored it 118-110, 118-110 and 117-111 for Johnson, who took his record to 37 wins against two draws and one defeat with 23 knockouts.

Segura, who was on a five-fight unbeaten streak going into the bout, has now 25-7-1 record.

Swedish league bans NHLers who will not play full season

STOCKHOLM (AP) — The Swedish Elite League voted Saturday against allowing North American National Hockey League (NHL) players to sign short-term deals with their former Swedish teams during the lockout.

Only NHLers who agree to play the full season in Sweden will be able to join their old teams, the league said.

The vote was not unanimous among the 12 teams that took part in a meeting at Stockholm's Arlanda Airport, the Swedish news agency TT said.

Only 50 of the 300 members in the Swedish Elite League's players union were in favour of having NHLers on the teams, according to results of a survey released last week. Later, two teams supported the idea after unanimous votes.

The Swedish league is the first in Europe not allowing NHLers to play for their old teams during the lockout.

"We think it would be unfair to let NHLers play for a shorter period," said Tommy Topel, president of the Swedish Elite League. "It could affect the league in an unnatural way. And the rosters have already been set a long time ago."

Patrick Carnback, who played for the Anaheim Mighty Ducks last season, made his debut for Västra Frölunda this week after he agreed to stay with the club throughout the season.

Most of the 30-plus Swed-

ish NHLers have returned home during the lockout and at least a dozen inquired about playing for their old teams.

Saturday's decision could mean that some of them will try to get jobs in neighbouring Finland and Norway. Pittsburgh's Tomas Sandstrom, who was born in Finland, reportedly has inquired about playing for a Finnish league team.

Toronto's Mats Sundin said Finland "looks like a good alternative to get match-tough."

"I'm little bit disappointed. We've been allowed to practice and I was really hoping to play in Sweden during the lockout. It's a pity because the Swedish league is the best in Europe.

"But the Finnish league is also competitive. Using NHLers proved to be a big success for the league and its teams."

Quebec Nordiques rookie Peter Forsberg may go to the Norwegian league, where his father Kent is coaching Valerenga.

"We decided to let Mats Sundin (of the Toronto Maple Leafs) and Tommy Soderstrom (of the New York Islanders) play with us during the NHL labour strife, but we accept the league's majority vote," said Ingemar Drakström, chairman of Djurgården, a Stockholm-based team which leads Europe's top hockey league.

All 24 Djurgården players voted Wednesday in favour of Sundin returning to the team during the lockout. Soderstrom, a goalie, later turned down the offer.

Forsberg, who clinched Sweden's Olympic victory against Canada eight months ago, also had hoped to play for his old Swedish team Modo during the lockout.

Four Finnish NHL stars, Jari Kurri (Los Angeles), Teemu Selanne (Winnipeg), Esa Tikkanen (St. Louis) and Christian Ruutu (Chicago) played their first game in the Finnish league Thursday.

Germany, the Czech Republic and Russia are also allowing NHLers to play there during the lockout.

Edberg wins Hong Kong championship

TENNIS ROUNDUP

Agencies

STEFAN Edberg beat defending champion Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands 6-3, 7-6 (7-4), 6-3 Sunday and won the \$763,500 Marlboro Championships.

Edberg, ranked fifth in the world, took one hour and 49 minutes to stop Krajicek and avenge his defeat in last year's final. The Swede has been runner-up twice in the Hong Kong tournament.

Both players struggled with their serves early in the match, with Edberg hitting eight double faults in the opening set. Krajicek, who blasted 22 aces in his semifinal victory over American Pete Sampras, had only one in four service games.

The players traded service breaks in the first two games but Edberg's consistency pulled him through as he broke Krajicek's serve again in the sixth game en route to winning the first set.

Krajicek started the second set with a service break in the second game but Edberg broke back immediately and the set went to a tiebreak, which the Swede won 7-4.

A service break in the sixth game was enough to give Edberg the third set and the title, worth \$220,000. "I was struggling with my serves in the first set, but I was serving a lot better in the second and third and I am very pleased with my overall performance," he said.

Chang keeps Beijing title

In Beijing home favourite Michael Chang retained his Beijing Open crown here Sunday, downing Sweden's Anders Jarryd. First-seed Chang, ranked seventh in the world, took an hour and a half to beat the Swede 7-5, 7-5.

Jarryd, 138th in the world, fought hard but did not cause a moment's serious concern to the 22-year-old Chinese American — who had the crowd behind him.

With the absence of other top-ranking players, the \$350,000 ATP tournament often looked like no more than a training session for Chang. He picked up the \$42,000 winner's cheque and

140 points in the ATP ranking.

Agassi to face Stich

In Vienna Andre Agassi continued to display the form he used to win the U.S. Open Saturday, trouncing top-seeded Goran Ivanisevic 6-4, 6-4 at the CA Trophy to set up a rematch of the Flushing final against Germany's Michael Stich.

The third-seeded American, playing in his first tournament since the U.S. Open, was undaunted by 19 aces from the Croatian and looked a strong favourite to beat Stich again and win the \$410,000 Vienna tournament.

Both players struggled with their serves early in the match, with Agassi hitting eight double faults in the opening set. Stich, who had only one in four service games, immediately played a winner.

In Flushing Meadow, Agassi celebrated his fifth victory against Stich, beating the German 6-1, 7-6, 7-5.

In Vienna, the American clearly was the darling of a crowd disappointed by Musser's poor showing. Every point was greeted with strong applause and whistles.

Stich, Courier in Lyon final

In Lyon, France, Marc Rosset of Switzerland and Jim Courier of the United States gained the final of the \$600,000 Lyon Open tournament with straight-set victories Saturday.

Rosset, seeded fifth, easily beat top-seeded Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine, 6-2, 6-2, in

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1994

title-holder Jana Novotna staved off a fierce challenge from Julie Halard of France Saturday to claim a place in the final of the Brighton International Women's Indoor Tournament.

Novotna was due to face fellow Czech Helena Sukova late Sunday in the final after the 1990 runner-up beat Latvia's Larisa Neiland 6-4 0-6 7-5 in the second semifinal.

Second seed Novotna achieved her fifth successive straight-set victory over seventh seed Halard but had to battle hard in the second set, twice recovering service breaks, before wrapping up a 6-3 7-5 victory in 94 minutes.

She described Halard's play as "ugly" but the French player's ferocious groundstroke battery from the back of the court was highly effective, if not pretty.

"It was very tough, especially in the second set. She is a very difficult player to face because she hits the ball so hard to keep you behind the baseline and then throws in a short ball. She is very unpredictable," Novotna said.

Halard's resistance looked short-lived initially when she was broken twice from 3-3 in the first set and trailed 0-1 in the second. But the French player suddenly lifted her game to give Novotna a fight.

"My self-confidence is building up all the time and I never thought for one moment that I would not win this match," said Novotna who won her last tournament in Leipzig three weeks ago.

"It was good to have a difficult match like that before the final because I haven't really had a tough test like that all week."



Stefan Edberg

72 minutes. Rosset, the 1990 champion here, used his big serve to handle Medvedev. In the quarterfinals Friday Rosset dealt South Africa's Wayne Ferreira his first loss in four tournaments.

In the other semifinal Courier, fourth seeded, defeated Russian Andrei Chesnokov, 6-3, 6-4.

It will be Courier's second final of the year. He lost in Nice last April. He has failed to win a tournament since August of 1993 when he captured the title at Indianapolis and has fallen to no. 14 in the world.

All-Czech final in Brighton

In Brighton, England, Rosset, Courier in Lyon final

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Israel plans to import 19,000 workers to replace Palestinians

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Israeli government on Sunday approved the import of 19,000 foreign workers to replace some of the Palestinian agriculture and construction labourers harried from Israel after a bomb in Tel Aviv killed 21 people.

A cabinet statement said the decision would provide 4,000 more foreign workers to the farming sector and 15,000 to Israel's building industry.

Some ministers hailed the move as a step toward ending Israel's dependence on Palestinian workers.

Other ministers warned the whitening down of the Palestinian workforce in Israel would strain the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) running self-rule in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho under the year-old Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal.

Israel sealed off the Gaza Strip and the West Bank indefinitely after a suicide bomber blew up a Tel Aviv bus

last Wednesday.

"Our efforts at the moment are strategic, to arrange things so that we can operate from the economy's point of view for a longer period on the basis of separation (between Israel and Palestinians)," said Economics Minister Shimon Shetreet.

Absorption Minister Yair Tsaban expressed concern: "There is no doubt this closure was a very serious stress on the residents of the territories... we must take into account the difficulties of our (peace) partner and not only our own difficulties."

Unemployment in the Gaza Strip according to U.N. estimates is running at 40 per cent.

The new workers, to include a group from China, would be in addition to 34,000 workers from Romania and Thailand brought to Israel during previous closures.

Since March 1993 the Palestinian workforce in Israel has been reduced to 60,000 from 90,000. Wednes-

day's closure brought the number to zero for the indefinite future.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said after imposing it that Israel faced "a big decision" on separating Israelis from Palestinians permanently.

In Cairo, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told a press conference that the closure was a "temporary measure."

Communications Minister Shlomo Aloni warned of the dangers of breeding greater extremism among the Palestinians.

Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein, of the left-wing Meretz party, also said that Israel would not maintain the closure permanently.

"It's not going to become permanent, it's not collective punishment," he said. "It means we have to exercise more control over those entering Israel from the territories."

He called Sunday's deci-

sions "defensive measures to save our people from the risk of another catastrophe like the bus bombing."

The disengagement process began months ago and a border fence is at an advanced stage of construction around the Gaza Strip. Several Labour deputies called at the weekend for a fence to be put between Israel and the West Bank.

But 70,000 Palestinians were still working in Israel when the bomb went off and they have now been deprived of their livelihoods for an uncertain period.

The cabinet agreed Sunday to extend the work permits of foreign workers already in Israel for one year and to impose heavy fines on Israeli employees using illegal Palestinian labour from the territories.

The majority of the 19,000 will be employed in agriculture with 4,000 in construction. Israel will look to Bulgaria, Romania, China and Thailand, the officials said.



LIFE UNDER SIEGE: Palestinians pass Israeli soldiers patrolling the curfewed town of Hebron on the West Bank following the stabbing of a soldier on Sunday. The soldier escaped with minor injuries as his comrades opened fire immediately and shot the man dead (AFP photo)

COLUMN 8

Disney, orchestra agree to settle suit

PHILADELPHIA (R) — The Philadelphia Orchestra and Walt Disney Co. have agreed to settle the orchestra's \$35 million lawsuit over royalties from the soundtrack of the home video version of *Fantasia*, lawyers said. The orchestra's lead attorney, David Pittinsky, said that the two sides had "decided amicably to resolve the issues. More than that we can't say." The dispute arose after Disney's 1991 release of the animated movie classic on videocassette. The Philadelphia Orchestra Association sued Burbank, California-based Disney and its home video subsidiary in May 1992, claiming it was owed at least \$35 million in royalties from home video sales. The original theatrical release in 1940 came a year after conductor Leopold Stokowski and the orchestra recorded the soundtrack for the film. Disney's lawyers have argued that the fee paid to the orchestra for the original theatrical release was all it was entitled to as a hired performer. On Monday a judge denied Disney's motion to dismiss the lawsuit, which sought at least 10 per cent of the estimated \$350 million in home video sales of the classic film. The orchestra reportedly got a flat fee of \$2,500 for its April 1939 performance, recorded at the Academy of Music. Because the trial was underway, the tentative settlement terms of which were not disclosed, must be approved by the judge, lawyers said.

Majali rejects PLO assertion on treaty clause on Jerusalem

Peace projects involve \$25b, will create jobs, premier tells government officials

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Sunday rejected assertions that Jordan's acceptance of Israel's recognition of the Kingdom's historical role in the Islamic shrines in Jerusalem meant that the Kingdom was also accepting Israel's claim that the Holy City is its capital.

If anything, "religious guardianship of Jerusalem is of special significance because it refutes Israel's claim that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel," Dr. Majali said at a weekly meeting of the heads of departments of the Ministry of Youth.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has asserted that Jordan, by including an Israeli recognition of the Kingdom's religious role in the Islamic shrines in Jerusalem in the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty finalised last week, was accepting the Israeli claim to the Holy City.

Dr. Majali reaffirmed that Jordan had no ambitions or greed over Jerusalem and that the Kingdom was only anxious and keen to maintain the Arab and Islamic identity of the Holy City.

The prime minister noted that Jordan had repeatedly

stated that it supported the Palestinian quest for political sovereignty over Jerusalem and that "Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine."

The prime minister also reviewed the longstanding relations between the Hashemites and Jerusalem which were not disrupted by the 1967 war or by Jordan's 1983 decision to sever legal and administrative links with the West Bank.

Both Israel and the PLO had acknowledged this relationship and Jordan's custodianship of the Islamic shrines in Jerusalem and the Kingdom continues to pay for the upkeep of the holy sites and the Awqaf staff there. Dr. Majali noted.

The prime minister also noted that the status of Jerusalem was to be negotiated between the Palestinians and Israel in the final status negotiations at a later stage, but that the issue of the Holy City was indeed dealt within Security Council Resolution 242.

On the Jordanian-Israeli treaty, the prime minister said Jordan had not compromised any of its rights in water, territory and security.

U.S. police aid in bust of dollar counterfeitors

BANGKOK (AP) — American investigators joined Thai police in busting a gang which was counterfeiting hundred-dollar bills, press reports said Saturday. Police seized 2,000 of the fake notes and arrested three men in a Thorsday night raid at a gas station, police Col. Somsak Saenchuen announced at a news conference. Two of the arrested men had been released from prison only three months earlier after serving three-year terms for counterfeiting, the Bangkok Post reported. Col. Somsak said the fake banknotes were wholesaled by a gang in the northeast province of Buriram, whose members bought the fake bills for 80 baht (\$3.20) apiece and sold them for 90 baht (\$3.60). American currency is widely used in the countries of Indochina, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam, which are Thailand's eastern neighbours.

Gays protest as new bishop is enthroned

DURHAM, England (AFP) — Homosexuals demonstrated Saturday at the enthronement of the new bishop of Durham, who has condemned homosexuality despite being convinced of gross indecency with another man 26 years ago. Two men were arrested by police when they tried to rush at Bishop Michael Turnbull as he was making the traditional three knocks on the door to be admitted to the Norman cathedral in this northeast England city. Demonstrators in front of the cathedral shouted "Turnbull is a hypocrite" and "sack the bishop now."

Bishop Turnbull said several of the crew had indicated it had loaded with diesel fuel in Iraq's port of Basra. The U.S. vessel that intercepted the Al Mahrousa was part of the U.N. maritime intercept operation that monitors ships coming from or bound to Iraq in the Gulf.

The boarding was the second in 10 days and occurred amid heightened tension in the Gulf region as a result of Iraq massing troops near the Kuwaiti border early in October.

On Oct. 13, the U.S. Navy boarded the 29,687-tonne Greek-owned, Liberian-flagged tanker Al Mahrousa to check whether it was violating the U.N. oil embargo imposed on Iraq over its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

One shipping source said the vessel, which displaces about 7,300 tonnes when fully loaded, was carrying about 3,000 tonnes of diesel. It had an Egyptian and Pakistani crew.

The Kuwaiti governor was expected to work with the U.N. Sanctions Committee to decide what to do with the vessel.

A Kuwaiti Defence Ministry spokesman said he understood the ship would be brought to a Kuwaiti port under escort later on Sunday but he declined further comment.

Another Kuwaiti official said Kuwaiti naval officers were inspecting the ship and would escort the vessel into Al Shuaiba port.

"There are some of our officers on board the ship at the moment carrying out an inspection," the official, who did not want to be identified.

Al Mahrousa was on charter to the German Hansa Shipping Co.

GIA claims killing of oil workers in Algeria

PARIS (Agencies) — The Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the most radical of the Algerian fundamentalist organisations, claimed responsibility for killing two foreign oil workers this week in its latest newsletter, obtained here Sunday.

"The sabotage and destruction squadron carried out an attack on an industrial infrastructure killing two Christians, one French and one Italian," the latest issue of *El Ansar* (the Partisans) said.

"The installations were set on fire during the attack," the newsletter added.

Islamic guerrillas raided an oilfield 400 kilometres southwest of Algiers operated by the state oil authority Sonatrach on Tuesday, killing 36-year-old Frenchman Philippe Huet, and Italian Mauro Dell'Angelo, 40. Both worked for the Franco-American group Schlumberger.

The raid was the first attack on the oil and gas sector, which represents 95 per cent of Algeria's export earnings, and was clearly aimed at scaring off foreign petro-chemical firms, whose technology and expertise is vital to maintaining the flow and developing new reserves.

Algeria is the biggest producer of natural gas in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the world's fifth biggest exporter.

The latest killings brought the total number of foreigners killed to 66 since the GIA ordered foreign nation-

(Continued on page 7)

Militants kill tourist, injure 4 in Egypt

ASSIUT (Agencies) — Suspected Muslim militants opened fire on a tour bus in southern Egypt on Sunday, killing a British tourist and wounding three others and an Egyptian driver.

The Interior Ministry said in a statement the bus was on a road that is not designated for tourist buses and the driver, Ahmad Abdul Kader, had not notified police of his journey.

Security sources said a witness saw three men wearing traditional robes open fire on the bus with machine-guns in the town of Nagada in the southern province of Qena, 500 kilometres south of Cairo. The gunmen escaped. The Interior Ministry named the dead tourist as John Byers and said the other three tourists in the bus as well as the driver were injured.

Byers, 46, was shot in the right side of the chest, security sources said. His wife, Linda Edwards, was slightly injured.

Tourist Martine Morris, 47, suffered a fracture in her right shoulder and her husband, Michael Morris, 46, light scratches to his back, the sources said, quoting Dr. Daoud Nazeem of Nagada general hospital.

The last time security forces reported such a high toll was in March when a manhunt was launched following a mass breakout from a high security prison in the eastern Aures mountains. Some 1,000 prisoners escaped in the breakout.

The four Britons are from London and arrived in Egypt last week, the sources said. The bus was carrying them from the tourist village of

Korna to see craftsmen in Nagada weaving silk on hand looms.

Militants fighting to overthrow the Egyptian government have carried out 21 previous attacks on tourists in Egypt as part of their campaign to turn the country into a strict Islamic state. Six tourists were killed and 50 wounded in those attacks.

Monday's attack took place on a dirt track leading from Luxor to Nagada, where the tourists wanted to visit the temple of Dendara, police said.

The Interior Ministry said the mini-bus took an "unauthorised" route without informing police. Security forces are on constant alert in the Luxor region, where militants have carried out several attacks in the past.

In the last attack on tourists, a German and two Egyptians were shot dead on Sept. 27 in Egypt's Red Sea resort of Hurghada.

The militants stepped up their confrontation with the government just over a week ago by stabbing Nobel Prize-winning writer Naguib Mahfouz. The 83-year-old author is recovering from knife wounds in his neck from the Oct. 14 attack.

The government's crackdown on the rebels following Mr. Mahfouz's stabbing has left two policemen and 15 suspected radicals dead.

Lebanon media welcome new law

BEIRUT (R) — Broadcasters welcomed a law regulating Lebanon's mass of private television and radio stations but some said it gave the government too much power to choose which ones to license.

Under the law passed by parliament last week some 50 television and more than 100 radio stations that sprouted during and after the 1975-90 civil war must apply to the

Ministry of Culture for a license.

It says stations — many of them militia mouthpieces in the war — must not provoke sectarian feuds or slander heads of state.

Authorities can ask for imprisonment for offenders who get funds to "serve interests of a foreign state or agency against public benefit, touching the political system or provoking sectarian feuds or disturbances," the law says.

Most broadcasters interviewed by Reuters agreed that Lebanon's chaotic audio-visual media needed regulation.

"It's not bad at all," Qassem Ja'afer, director general of Beirut's New Television (NTV), said of the law.

"I would not say it was fantastic... but I say we have a very good basis, an information bill unique in the Middle East."

It is not known how many stations will be licensed but broadcasters say a few major ones will survive tough licensing requirements and the cut-throat competition for market share.

"There are some of our officers on board the ship at the moment carrying out an inspection," the official, who did not want to be identified.

Colonel Mousab Najm, a spokesman for Kuwait's Defence Ministry, said Saturday night that the Al Mahrousa's crew had admitted they loaded the fuel at Basra.

Colonel Najm said Kuwait had accepted the responsibility of investigating this violation committed by the captain and the owners of the ship.

Al Mahrousa was on charter to the German Hansa Shipping Co.

U.S. navy boards ship said carrying Iraqi fuel

told Reuters. "The ship is expected to be anchoring in Al Shuaiba port by sunset."

According to the U.S. Navy spokesman, the captain said the Al Mahrousa had been to Iran. But the ship had maps only for the Khawr Abdullah waterway leading into Iraq. It also had no documentation, no bill of lading and no manifest.

Kuwait Radio said several of the crew had indicated it had loaded with diesel fuel in Iraq's port of Basra.

The U.S. vessel that intercepted the Al Mahrousa was part of the U.N. maritime intercept operation that monitors ships coming from or bound to Iraq in the Gulf.

The boarding was the second in 10 days and occurred amid heightened tension in the Gulf region as a result of Iraq massing troops near the Kuwaiti border early in October.

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One shipping source said the vessel, which displaces about 7,300 tonnes when fully loaded, was carrying about 3,000 tonnes of diesel. It had an Egyptian and Pakistani crew.

The Kuwaiti governor was expected to work with the U.N. Sanctions Committee to decide what to do with the vessel.

The U.N. sanctions, including a ban on Iraqi oil exports, was imposed four days after Iraq invaded Kuwait Aug. 2, 1990.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Bahrain-Qatar meeting on dispute fails

MANAMA (AFP) — Bahrain and Qatar have failed to draw up a joint request for the World Court in The Hague to intervene in their border dispute, a Bahraini official spokesman announced Sunday. The spokesman, quoted by GNA news agency, said representatives of the two countries had met Saturday in London but failed to agree. They would meet again at a later date. The meeting broke down over the status of Zubara, a coastal region in northwest Qatar but also claimed by Bahrain, he said. Qatar refused to allow the zone to be included in the file to be presented to the World Court. The court itself is to meet on Nov. 30, at the end of a five-month period laid down for the countries in dispute to submit their request for mediation, either jointly or separately. Doha called in July 1991 for the World Court to rule in its favour for the Hawar islands off the Qatari coast as well as the Dibab shallows between Bahrain and Bahrain. The dispute dates back to 1939 when Britain ruled the region.

Rabin's 'death certificate' tours settlements

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli hardliners have printed a "death certificate" for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and circulated it in Jewish settlements on the West Bank, police said Sunday. The leaflet refers to suicide as the cause of death and says "the people do not want to commit suicide with you." The former spokesman for the anti-Arab movement Kadish which was banned in February, Noam Federman, said he "agreed with the message on Rabin's suicidal policy" but